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By T. C. F. BROTCHIE.

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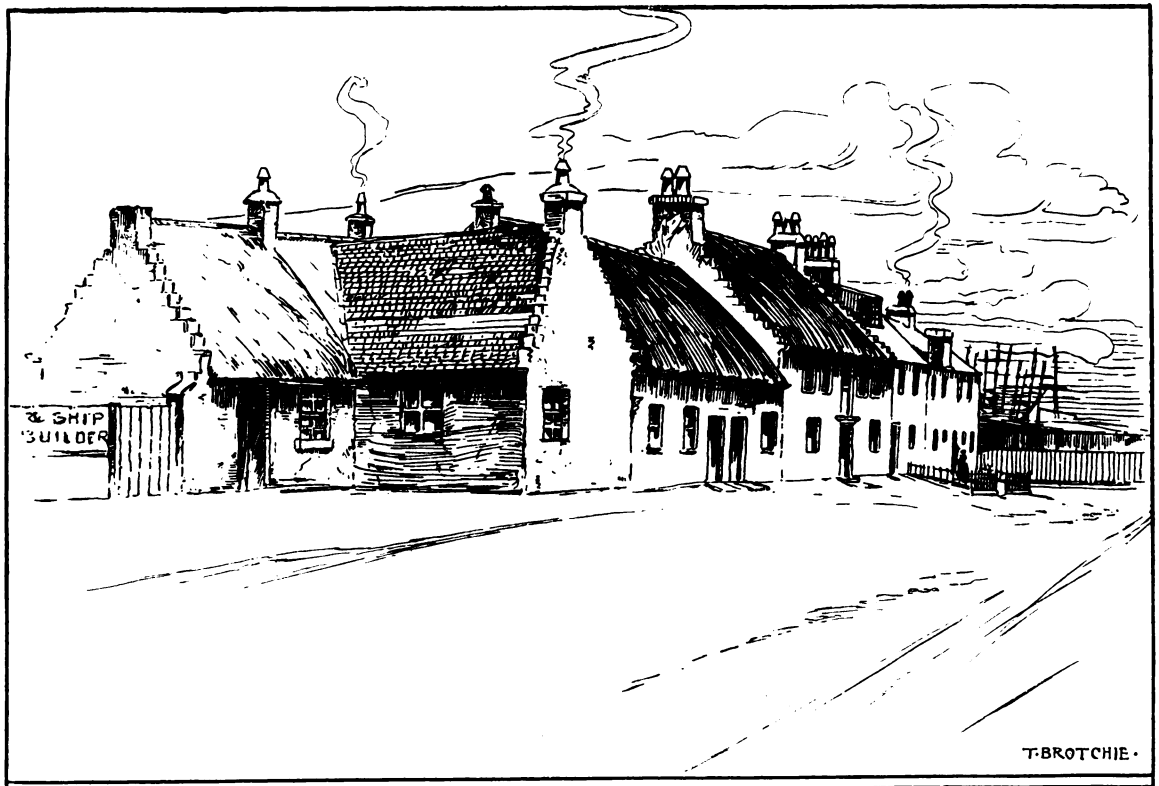

· THE · OLD · WATER · ROW · 1905

Frontispiece.

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The History of Govan

BURGH AND PARISH:

Historical, Ecclesiastical, Traditional, and Municipal:

BY

T. C. F. BROTCHIE.

COPIOUSLY ILLUSTRATED WITH

REPRODUCTIONS OF WATER-COLOURS AFTER SAM BOUGH, R.S.A., W. SIMPSON, R.I., T. FAIRBAIRN, R.S.W., AND DAVID SMALL; NUMEROUS PEN AND INK SKETCHES BY THE AUTHOR; AND A VALUABLE COMTEMPORARY PORTRAIT OF QUEEN MARY.

JOHN COSSAR, GOVAN.

1905.

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PREFACE.

A VOLUME dealing with the history of Govan has not hitherto been attempted. Why such a field has been left untilled it were difficult to say. The civic growth of the last half century presents a narrative of enterprise probably unsurpassed in our country. Preceding this commercial era we have an old-world village. Quaint salmon fishers and quainter weavers flit across the stage in those mellow days. The records of our ancient Weavers' Society tell us not a little of those times; the Session Records of the Parish Kirk are a virgin mine of bygone Govan lore. Long before the earliest of these records were indited the name of the village figures in many old charters and documents. Tradition tells us that the saintly Constantine was buried in the holy ground by the Ferry. Here, then, we have material, limited doubtless, not generally accessible, and widely scattered, yet well worth gleaning.

I have endeavoured to bring this scattered material—and it is very scattered—together, so as to afford a systematic and connected view of the story of the district from the earliest ages to the present day. By doing so I trust to awaken on the part of the inhabitants a just pride in this the place of their nativity—a pride which its many historical associations, no less than its brilliant commercial career, are well fitted to call forth. I hope that the Govanite will find in this volume something interesting, amusing, and instructive.

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I would take this opportunity of thanking the many and disinterested friends for the valuable assistance they have rendered me in this congenial task. It would be invidious to mention individuals. Their name is legion.

Particularly would I thank the Govan Town Council for placing the Burgh Records at my disposal; the Parish Church Session for a similar favour with the valuable and hitherto untapped ancient Session Records; the Govan Weavers' Society for placing unreservedly in my hands the old minute and cash books of the society; the Govan School Board and the Govan Parish Council for affording me every facility to acquire highly valuable statistics; the shipbuilding firms of Govan for a like privilege; the Corporation of Glasgow for permission to reproduce the beautiful water-colours of Sam Bough, Simpson, Fairbairn, and Small in the Art Galleries; and Sir John Stirling-Maxwell for permitting me to reproduce the historic portrait preserved at Pollok House of Queen Mary of Scotland.

T. C. F. B.

49 CLIFFORD STREET, IBROX,
GOVAN, *November*, 1905.

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THE HISTORY OF GOVAN.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

There is little, we must confess, to suggest hoary antiquity in the matter-of-fact, up-to-date, throbbing life which permeates the burgh of Govan. Everywhere and in everything we discover the modern spirit. The eternal bang and clang of steel upon steel is too practical for aught but the life of to-day. We cannot believe that the "good old times" we read of in books ever had an habitation in our burgh. We cannot conceive the mediæval monk telling his beads in our grimy, stern streets, nor, stretch we our imagination to its utmost limit, can we conceive an Arthurian knight in all his chivalry passing along them in "searche of divers strange adventures." 'Twere almost impossible to entertain such old-world fancies in this the hub of the resuscitated iron age! Yet, despite our modernity, Govan had once upon a day "the good old times," and not so long ago either; had also, in times long, long vanished, her monastery, in passing which the pilgrim would mayhaps list for a space while "Merie sungen the muneches binnen,"* "Gouen." Peaceful and sweet is the chord whose tones we but faintly hear now-a-days of that vanished monastic life. A flourishing settlement must have been that of "Gouen," drawing to its fold the skilled craftsmen of the time. We of to-day inherit fine specimens of that skill in the wonderful collection of sculptured stones whose delicate traceries are rapidly being obliterated by exposure to

* "Merry sang the monks within Ely." Lines recorded by a monk of Ely about 1166, and interesting as an example of the English of that period.

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the elements in the dank, cold, churchyard by the riverside. The weather-beaten ancient sexton unconsciously echoed the utilitarian spirit of the times when looking at these relics alongside the writer—"A wheen useless stanes!"

These voices which speak to us from out the past are drowned by the hum of the hammer. The strenuous life pays little heed to such matters. Perhaps it is better so, who knows? Ages have come and gone since the limner designed and the sculptor engraved those stones: Scotland has been enslaved and gallantly freed; ecclesiastical strife has divided men; another form of religion holds sway; a simple village life had its term of existence, the village became a burgh, men of outstanding genius sprang to life within its confines, sending the fame of Govan as a shipbuilding centre far and wide, and to-day we have the virile, independent burghal area.

The pre-burghal history does not bulk large on the national stage. We catch fleeting glimpses of the name as the centuries pass. Their interest is primarily to those whose interests lie within the burgh, and surely there are many desirous of preserving such.

Writing about 1575, Bishop Leslie describes Govan as "a gret and ane large village vpon the watir of Clyd." As the years flit on the "gret village" emerges into a broader light. The closing years of the eighteenth and the opening decade of the nineteenth century saw the commencement of an active commercial life. Salmon fishing and weaving were the staple industries, and these we know were prosecuted with intelligence and vigour. Then arrived the great era of shipbuilding, and the outlook of the Govanite was broadened to a commanding degree. Men and money poured into the district until the "gret village" has become a great town, the fifth in respect of population in Scotland. Surely a marvellous change to be wrought within a brief half century—a change which speaks volumes for the continued virility of the race. The noblest triumphs in shipbuilding and engineering have been achieved within the burghal confines. From the days when Napier launched the tiny "Vanguard" in 1843, there has sailed from the yards of Govan the greatest

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and grandest procession of marine architecture the world has ever seen or is likely to see. The name of Govan has been writ large on the page of events these latter years, so large that one is tempted to forget there is a story of the town which precedes these modern triumphs. In the rush and crush of the time folks have little leisure to search for these annals. Fragmentary and brief, the reader of history is apt to overlook them. But they are worth preserving. To winnow these from the mass of surrounding material, and arrange them so as to afford a systematic and connected view of the story of Govan from the earliest ages to the present day, has been the writer's endeavour. So to our tale.

Govan Burgh Arms.

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CHAPTER II.

ANTIQUITY OF GOVAN—PREHISTORIC INHABITANTS —SCULPTURED STONES—DRUIDS—DOOMSTER HILL—THE ROMAN WAY—ST. CONSTANTINE'S SARCOPHAGUS — "SCOTICHRONICON" — HOLY SETTLEMENT OF GOVAN.

Govan is a place of considerable antiquity, although its material and burghal prosperity is of recent growth. Ages ago, geology and archæology tell us, a great inland sea covered the valley of the Clyde, sweeping eastwards to Cambuslang and washing the base of the Cathkins on the south. This estuary, whose limits reached as far as Johnstone and Paisley, was narrowed upwards by the projecting Ibrox and Pollokshields ridges. The discovery of shells and other marine organisms in various localities of the Clyde valley tell us that the sediment formed over this tract was deposited under marine conditions, while we have evidence that this state of matters probably existed when the district was occupied by man. From time to time during the last hundred years, and, as a rule, more than twenty feet below the present surface, primitive canoes have been found, in the course of excavation, near Pointhouse, Stockwell, Kingston Dock, Castlemilk, and other places. One of them was found prow uppermost, as if it had foundered in a storm. These to a certain extent afford proof of the existence of an inland sea covering the Clyde valley, and also of the contemporaneous existence of man.

The whole lands of Govan were then under water. Ages pass. The land rises slowly, as is evidenced by the old sea-margins (Hugh Miller) of the Clyde estuary, and the inland sea disappears, leaving, for a very long time, marsh on the flat lands of Govan. A Celtic race (a Goidelic or Gaelic race) gifted with the knowledge of metals intrudes upon the scene—drear and desolate it

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The long array of Sculptures.

Photo by W. Milne, Govan.

The Hog-backed Stones.

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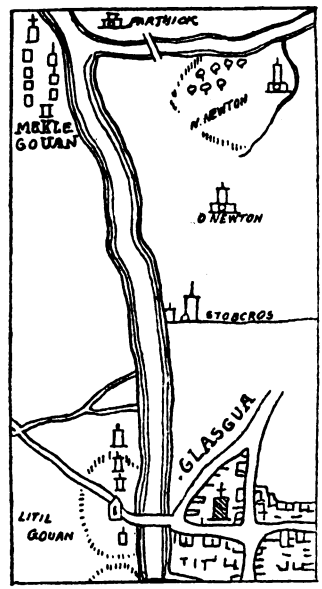
must have appeared—and doubtless, until the coming of the Roman legions, cultivated that fat, rich strip of land bordering the Clyde now occupied by the modern burgh of Govan. History is silent regarding the primitive man of Govan. Doubtless he was like his prehistoric neighbours in his physical, intellectual, and moral characteristics.

All over the world and in every country we meet with a certain number of facts which show that human culture differs very little in the primitive condition. We may take it, therefore, that the prehistoric Govanite had his fire-worship, his pile dwellings, his flint-pointed arrows, and his stone celt, and that, like other children of nature, he suffered the torture of tattooing in order to stalk about with coloured decorations on his brawny chest and shoulders. The earliest historic traces of man in Govan burgh do not carry us beyond the sixth century of the Christian era. These traces, however, tell us of a great monastic settlement, an establishment which in its day and generation was without doubt the most important in the vale of "Cliddesdale." We might venture even further, and say that there were few, if any, religious places in Scotland like unto the holy place of Govan. The long array of sculptures lying 'neath the kirkyard wall plead eloquently, albeit silently, on behalf of the recognition of that evanished majesty. They whisper to us of the mighty dead and their mighty work wrought in days gone by. And mighty work surely it was to engraft the pure faith of Christianity upon the



First Map showing Govan (1641).

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dark blood-stained Druidical rites which held sway in the years preceding the coming of the monkish missionaries. Listening to the whisper of the Govan stones we may detect a chord, a faint echo truly, of the worship of the oak and the mistletoe bough; listening, we see as in a vision the sacred grove by the banks of the Clyde. We see the grisly-bearded crafty priest, the long array of white-robed virgins, the wondering masses of ignorant, savage worshippers—all waiting in eager expectation for the sacrifice of the trembling human being who is bound to the sacred stone. As the wild chant is raised by the cruel priest the scene vanishes and a more peaceful life appears. We see patient monks going about their Christian tasks where once the Druids worshipped. The stone of sacrifice is levelled with the earth. Gazing on its graved surface we catch sight of a cross, emblem of the conquering Faith, and now we have the sculptured stones of Govan. Let us look to this for a space. Visionary it may be, yet withal some fragments of truth may cling to it

Adjoining this "graveyard of kings" there stood until within recent years a mound which, for aught we know to the contrary, may well have been a Druidical erection. To the villagers of Govan it was known so lately as 1790 as the Doomster Hill. The memory of this hill is preserved in the name "Hillock House," by which the old villa built on or very near to the site of the hillock is known. We can still discover faint traces of this tumulus—it was never entirely swept away—and there exists the probability that it may be an ancient "barrow" or the remains of a Druidical temple.

During the course of building operations in the early "thirties" of last century, some charred logs of wood, bullrushes, decayed bones, and other evidences of human agency were discovered a few feet below the then surface of the hillock. The excavators did not pursue investigations—they were constructing a dye-work pond on the top of this ancient tumulus!—and since that time no opportunity has arisen of investigating the mound. That it is an artificial "hillock" there appears little doubt. The land on which it is located was, and is, a flat plain, with no suggestion of rising ground anywhere near. Its outstanding character can

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be gathered from the fact that, as remarked, it was called the Doomster Hill until about 1790. Possibly it may have served its day as one of the "law-hills" of the countryside, but there are no records extant pointing to this. Tradition, however, supplies the want by the name "Doomster Hill," and probably for such a purpose the ancient lords of the soil may have used it. If that be so, and there is no reason why we should not accept the fact as conveyed by tradition in this case, it carries us back to the fourteenth century. After that period these "moot-hill courts" ceased, among the last being one held at the Hund Hill on the 21st April, 1385—"throw Sir Patrick Gray, lorde of the chefe barony of Langforgande." Documents relating to this court are still preserved among the family papers of Sir Patrick Keith Murray of Auchtertyre. What more likely than that, having this "tumulus" or "hillock" ready-made, the ancient inhabitants of Govan would hold their courts thereon?

But it is quite permissible to carry our speculations still further back—back, indeed, to the days of the Druids. May this "hillock" or "moot-hill" not be a Druidical erection? There are many such "moot-hills" throughout Scotland supposed by eminent archæologists to be the sacred places whereon the ancient Druid priesthood practised their sun-worship. As is well known, a feature of these "hillocks" and all Druidical "temples" is their singularly beautiful choice of situation. By the banks of some meandering stream, in finely-wooded dells, or perchance in the midst of the majesty of Highland mountain and fell, there we find the grey, weather-beaten "standing-stone" marking the site of the Druidical temple. The Christian monks who succeeded the sun-worshippers more than oft converted the Druid remains to their own purposes, as the crosses found on what are decidedly the stones of the temples of these old peoples abundantly testify. And this fact opens to us rather an interesting question regarding the ancient sculptured stones of Govan. Might we not suppose, and our supposition will rest upon as solid ground as a great number of such queries, that these old stones, with their curious sculptured

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faces, are in reality the remains of an ancient Druidical circle?

The situation of the "moot-hill" adjacent to the old ferry or ford was in past times a charming one. That it was so as far back as the sixth century we may take for granted. The early Christian fathers displayed the eye artistic when choosing the place whereon to rear a habitation, and in this respect they very often pitched upon that of the Druids, converting, as we have seen, their stone circles to the uses of a purer faith. May they not have done so in the case of Govan? The "Circle" would be there, standing in the midst of the sacred grove, and to what better use could they put these monoliths than that of monuments to the early Christian disciples? All that was required for their conversion was the engraving of a cross upon the surface. Indeed, many of the stones if reared on end would immediately convey the suggestion of such relics as—to take a single example—the solitary standing-stone which marks the site of the chapel of St. Colmac in Bute. This Druidical relic has a cross sculptured upon it, as if to consecrate the site of the old worship to the service of the new. The same course may have been followed with the Govan stones, and, admitting this, the proximity of the "hillock" or "moat-hill" suggests a Druidical foundation for this artificial mound.

Be that as it may, should building operations ever be conducted on this spot—the site of the hillock—in future, it would be of vital interest to the antiquary were a thorough investigation to be made of the old tumulus. One cannot tell what secrets may lie hidden within its grey bosom.

However, history as well as tradition enables us to affirm with confidence that the earliest settlement of man in Govan was adjacent to the "old Water Row," near the embouchure of the Kelvin. The oldest of existing records point to a ford on the Clyde where the cross-ferry now plies. Indeed, there is every probability that the road leading to it was a Roman way, by which the legions of Hadrian crossed the river, coming from the "Vanduara" of Ptolemy—supposed to be Paisley—to establish their outlying station on Yorkhill.

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Drawn by the Author from a rare print.

Govan Ferry (1815), showing the Doomster Hill and a fisherman's hut.

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The extensive find of Roman coins and Samian ware on the summit of Yorkhill in 1868 affords a certain amount of proof of the establishment of an outlying fort there—small it might be—and lends colour to the suggestion that the busy road to the ferry of to-day was at one period trod by the brass-clad legions of Rome. We have proof, however, which carries us back to a time little distant from the Roman occupation of Scotland of the settlement of man at this spot. The justly famous sculptured stones* referred to, found in the kirkyard, afford striking evidence of the fact. There be few visitors to the burgh of Govan aware of the treasure-trove of antiquity lying in the centre of this work-a-day place. Be our friend, however, of antiquarian leanings, let him direct his steps to the parish kirkyard, wherein he will find many rarely-sculptured stones and a beautiful sarcophagus. The latter curious relic is covered with sculptured work on the sides and ends, the ornament and figures of which correspond with many of the sculptured stones found in Scotland, although the graving is in a lower style of relief. About the centre of the bottom and towards the foot is a circular opening, such as occurs in stone coffins of a more modern date, for the purpose of permitting the escape of decomposing matter.†

This sarcophagus was discovered in 1855 by the sexton while digging a grave in the south-east corner of the kirkyard. The roots of two elm trees of giant size completely surrounded it, and much difficulty was experienced in removing the coffin from their embraces. Stimulated by the wonderful discovery, further investigation was made, resulting in the unearthing of several monuments. Some of these are supposed to have formed covers of cists or coffins; others, known as the hog-backed stones of Govan, are carved in a curious and grotesque manner, their appearance suggesting some sort of marine animal. Much controversy has

* Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Bart., M.P., had plaster casts taken of the Govan stones. These he photographed, afterwards publishing the photographs in a beautiful volume.

† The dimensions of the cavity are:—Length 6 feet, three inches less at the bottom; width 15½ inches at head and 13½ inches at foot, width at the bottom 2 inches less; depth at head 14½ inches, 15½ inches in the centre, and 13 inches at the foot.

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raged around the latter antiquities. One fact emerges from it all, and that is that these strange relics tell of a great monastic settlement at Govan what time our gigantic neighbour was represented by a collection of wattle huts, on the banks of the purling Molendinar. That these stones may at a remote period have formed a Druidical circle is a reasonable assumption. Their state of preservation, considering their age, is remarkable. The carving stands out in bold relief, notwithstanding the long exposure to the weather and the vandal. Formerly the stones were free standing and erect crosses, and it is more than probable that there were many which have been lost or destroyed in the centuries that have gone since their erection. There is a fragment preserved at Jordanhill said to have been removed there in 1762 when the old church of Govan was pulled down to make room for the new building.

In the continuation to that gossipy old chronicler Fordun there is preserved a curious legend regarding the monasticism of Govan in the days we speak of—a legend which has a direct bearing on the sculptured stones and sarcophagus. In his "Scotichronicon" we read that "Constantine, King of Cornwall, becoming a convert to the faith of St. Columba, resigned his crown and came to Scotland in the year 565; that he preached the Christian faith to the Scots and Picts, and founded a monastery at Govan, over which he presided; and that having converted the whole of Cantyre, he there suffered martyrdom, and was buried in his monastery at Govan."

This remarkable passage regarding the establishment of a monastery at Govan by St. Constantine is found in Goodal's edition of the "Scotichronicon" (1759), Vol. I., p. 130. It is not in Skene's edition of Fordun's chronicle, and, therefore, it may be attributed to Walter Bower, who is supposed to have written his continuation and additions between 1441 and 1447. Bower is looked upon as a most trustworthy chronicler, and there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of his statement. Doubtless in his time there were many ancient records and documents extant from which he would derive his information. That such documents have not survived to the present day is easily accounted for, hundreds of

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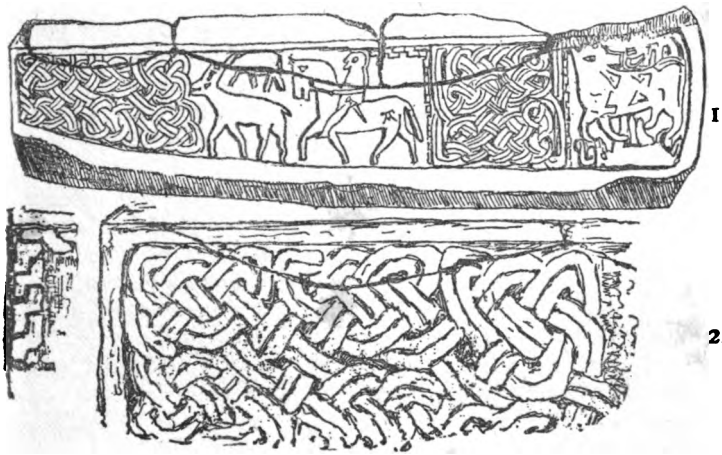
valuable records having been destroyed during the religious disturbances of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Let us, however, dip a little further into these old monkish legends regarding our Saint, for the subject to the antiquarian, and also to all who are interested in the history of the burgh, is an exceedingly fascinating one. In Bishop Forbes' "Kalendar of Scottish Saints," p. 311, we have the following*:—"Constantine K.M., March 11, A.D. 596." In the Carthusian Auctarium to the great work of Usuard we find:—"In Scotia S.



1. Left side of Sarcophagus.
2. Beautiful interlacing ornament in panels.

Constantine regis et martyris," whom the dedication of several important churches in Scotland and an Irish poem of Rumann Mac Colman enable us to identify. The legend is wild and strange, and not without some confusion as to date. It thus appears in the "Breviary" of Aberdeen:—"Constantine, the son of Paternus, King of Cornubia, married the daughter of the King of Lesser Britannia. On her death he forsook his kingdom, crossed to Hibernia, and entering a religious

* "The Govan Sarcophagus," p. 3, by Macgregor Chalmers, I.A., F.S.A., Scot.

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house was for seven years employed in carrying grain to the convent mill. One day he was overheard asking himself, 'Am I Constantine, King of Cornubia, whose head has carried so many helmets, whose body has worn so many corselets? That I am not.' This being overheard, he was at once carried off to the cloister, where they educated him and raised him to the priesthood. Thence he betook himself to St. Columba, and after that was directed by St. Kentigernus to preach the Word of God in Golvedia, where he was elected Abbot.

"In his extreme old age he prayed God that he might die a martyr for the Church of Christ. His prayer was heard, for when he was preaching through the country, and had come to the island of Kintyre, certain wicked men landed to fulfil in their sin what the good man had sought in piety. They cut off the hand of his servant, which he straightway healed, and falling on him wounded him, cut off his arm, and left him for dead. Then calling together his people he fell asleep in peace in the year 576." ("Breviary," Aberdeen.) Some confusion is necessarily occasioned by the fact that there would appear to have been two Constantines, both Saints. One was a King of the Britons, who resigned his crown and came to Scotland, where he converted Kintyre and died about 588. That is our Constantine. The other was Constantine, son of Fergus of the Picts, who succeeded Mochuda at Rathin somewhat later than the year 630.

Referring then to St. Constantine, whose revered dust reposes in the kirkyard* of Govan, Colgan gives from Gildas an account of the flagitious life led by Constantine before his conversion. He states, among other things, that "he murdered his two children, who were the sons of Modred, King of the Britons, as is learnt from his own contemporary, Matthew of Westminster, in his chronicle A.D. 545. He says he first became a monk under St. David at Menevia, then proceeded to Ireland, and lastly went to Scotland with St. Columba, not on the occasion of St. Columba's first visit, for then he was King of Cornwall, but afterwards.

* There is a tradition that the soil in the Govan kirkyard was brought from the Holy Land during the sixth century.

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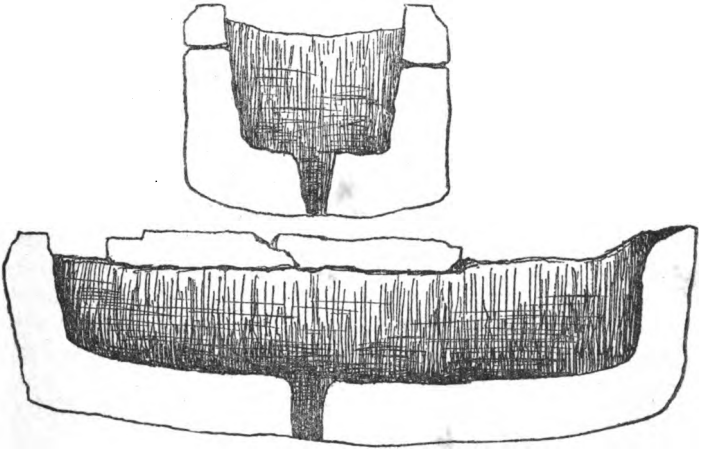
He was martyred in Kentire in 590 and buried in Govan." (Colgan, *Acta* S.S. Hib., 577.) Boece is silent as to his early excesses, makes him fly to Ireland with his wife and children; adds that on his discovery he shaved his head in a monastery of the same country, where he was slain by the Scottes and "eckit to the nowmer of martiris. In memory hereof many kirkes air among us dedicate to him." (Bellenden's "Boece," ed. 1821, Vol. II., p. 88.) Doubtless a considerable amount of the foregoing is merely monkish fable, confusion being lent also by each writer probably transcribing whatsoever story would best please the



Sections of Sarcophagus.

religious leanings and thought of his time. Stripped of its garnishings, however, there is little doubt that such a saintly being as Constantine actually flourished sometime during the sixth century, the legend in the "Scotichronicon" having for its foundation as much of truth as is usually associated with like stories. So that, shadowy as is the tale, we may take it that Constantine did found a monastery on the banks of the Clyd, suffered martyrdom in Kintyre, and was laid to rest in his church of Govan.

In his cultured and laborious work on the sculptured stones of Scotland, Dr. John Stuart discusses at con-

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siderable length the origin and date of the Govan find, and he makes the remark that they "tend to show that Govan must in early times have been a spot of great reverence, while the sarcophagus is peculiarly interesting as furnishing a link of connection between the sculptured pillars and a relic undoubtedly sepulchral, similarly sculptured."

He places the date of the curious hog-backed stones and the beautiful sarcophagus in the period between Constantine's martyrdom and the reign of David I. That carries us to the sixth century, and it is not at all improbable that the sarcophagus referred to may have formed the shell in which the remains of the saintly Constantine himself were enshrined. Mr. Macgregor Chalmers in great and eloquent detail discusses this question, and gives his dictum that the saint's body was enshrined in this sarcophagus. Be that as it may, the stones afford primary evidence of the existence at a remote period, centuries before we find the first mention of Govan in ecclesiastical records, of an important monastic institution adjacent to the present ferry and occupying the ground whereon the parish church is erected. From their character and age the stones must have formed monuments to an illustrious dead. The intricate and beautiful sculptures adjoining the sarcophagus point to the remains which occupied it being of a very sacred character—some mighty prince or saintly being of the ancient tribes inhabiting Strathclyde.

Both north and south banks of the Clyde near Govan Ferry appear to have been in past ages specially attractive residential ground. Jocelin, whose memoir of the life of Kentigern was written about 1174, informs us that Rhydderch, a Christian King of the Cumbrian Britons, who flourished about 573, resided, shortly before his death, "in the royal house which was called Pertnech," by which Partick is meant. This "royal house" was doubtless situated—on what, so recently as 1830, was one of the fairest spots on the Clyde, and on which then stood an old castellated erection—at the confluence of the Kelvin, ground now occupied by Messrs. Henderson's shipbuilding yard. It is not too much to say that this semi-pagan-Christian king built

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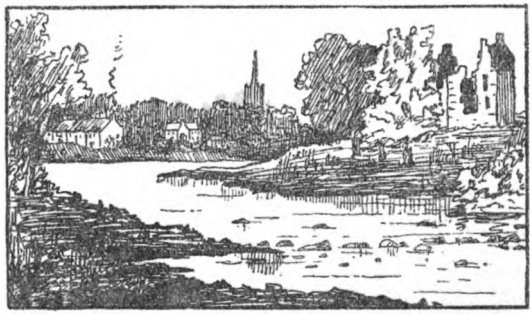
his "royal house" to be near the sacred settlement of Guuen, the monks of which would afford him ghostly consolation and sympathy as his latter end approached. Probably the remains of this old British King found a resting-place where such as he would desire it—beside the dust of Constantine and his saintly band in the kirkyard of the holy settlement of Govan.

We have also a slight connection with the days of King Rhydderch with Govan, or in the local place name, Marlinford. As the name indicates, a ford at one period existed at some distance below the junction of Clyde and Kelvin, and indeed was there until within recent times. In Jocelin's narrative the monk identifies "Pertnech" as one of the haunts of *Merlin*, the Merlinus



Where Kelvin joins Clyde (1828).

or Merrdden Caledonicus, whose twin-sister was the wife of Rhydderch. May not this old ford or shallow of the Clyde retain in its name a memory of those ancient days? It is pleasing to think that it does.

The mention of King Rhydderch, who built his royal house at "Pertnech," recalls the fact that the armorial bearings of the City of Glasgow derive their origin from an episode in the life of Queen Langueth, his wife. She received a ring from her husband, says the legend, but gave it to a soldier with whom she was intriguing. The King discovered the soldier sleeping on the banks of the Clyde, and, slipping the ring off the finger of the unconscious son of Mars, cast it into the river. He then commanded his Queen to produce the

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tell-tale circle. Unable to do so, the Queen confessed all to St. Mungo and besought his assistance. The Saint directed a fishing-line to be cast into the river, and, behold, a salmon was caught and the ring found in its mouth. Hence the salmon and ring of Glasgow's coat-of-arms.

We must now bid farewell to this early and purer primitive church, and doing so there follows a long period of darkness. For hundreds of years Govan and its monastery are shrouded in the mists of eld. Silence reigns supreme. Nothing is to be gleaned regarding the ancient settlement for nearly five centuries, until it emerges into the light of history once more during the times of that "sair sanct for the croun," David the first.

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CHAPTER III.

EARLIEST HISTORICAL NOTICES—DAVID I. AND GOVAN, 1147—ISLANDS BETWEEN GOVAN AND PARTICK—BULL BY POPE ALEXANDER III., 1172—GOVAN WAIRDE—DIVISION OF BURGHS —OLD EXTENT.

As is only to be expected, the earliest historical notices of Govan are associated with the holy settlement on the banks of the Molendinar. The building of Glasgow Cathedral appears to have been begun before David succeeded to the throne on the death of his brother Alexander I. in 1124, and a gift by him, as earl, for the restoration and building is recorded ("Regist. Epis. Glasg.," I., p. 8, No. 2). On the 7th of July, 1136, the church, which was probably constructed of wood, was dedicated by Bishop John Achaius, and on that occasion David, then King, gave to it the land of Perdeyc, which was afterwards erected, along with the church of Govan, into a prebend of the Cathedral. Ecclesiastical records inform us that, with the consent of his son Henry, David granted the lands and church of Govan some time before the year 1147 to the See of St. Kentigern of Glasgow in pure alms, the rights and privileges being confirmed by bulls from various Popes.

The charter conveying the Govan lands was in these terms:—"David by the grace of God King of Scots: To all the faithful of holy church, greeting: Know ye that I have given and granted to the church of Kentigern of Glasgu, and to the bishopric of the said church, Guven,* with its marches, free and quit for ever: To be possessed in alms, as freely and quietly as any other alms are and ought to be given. Witnesses: Henry, son of the King, and granting; Robert, Bishop of St. Andrews," etc. ("Reg. Glasg.," No. 6). This ancient charter will be regarded with reverence by

* The whole parish was included in the grant.

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Govanites, for in it we find the place-name of the old lands and present burgh—Govan—used for the first time in authentic Scottish history. We have travelled a "lang gait" since 1147, and it is pleasing to glance backward and find that even 700 years ago the lands of Govan were of sufficient value as to be regarded as a most important adjunct to the great ecclesiastical settlement on the banks of the Molendinar, called Glasgow.

The church of Govan was erected, with all its ecclesiastical rights and pertinents, into a prebend in the Cathedral of Glasgow by Bishop Herbert about 1153; this grant included "the islands between Guvan and Perthec which David the King gave to the church of Glasgow at its dedication, and that other part of Perthec which the same King gave in pure alms to Bishop John and his successors." The prebend was bestowed at the time of its erection on Help', the Bishop's clerk, and the patronage continued in the Bishops till the Reformation. The church was dedicated to St. Constantine. It had an altar dedicated to the Virgin with an endowed chaplainry, but when or by whom founded does not appear. At the Reformation the revenues of this altar, as given up by the chaplain, James Hill, were 12 bolls of oats, 3 bolls of meal, and 26s. in money. The rectory was entered in the old valuations called Baiamund's Roll and in the Libellus Taxationum at £106 13s. 4d. It is only £97 7s. 6d. in a taxation roll of 1546. In the books of the Collector-General of the thirds of benefices for the year 1561 the third of the parsonage and vicarage of the church of Govane is stated at £66 13s. 4d., or £200 in whole. In 1577 both benefices were transferred to the University of Glasgow by royal charter. In the books of the assignation of stipends, 1579-80 *et seq.*, Govan is entered as "servit be the college of Glasgow" (Origines Parochiales). We have in that old charter of 1153, whereby the Govan church is erected into a prebend of Glasgow Cathedral, an explanation why the parish of Govan is to be found on both sides of the Clyde. The term "parish"—parochia—meaning any district, was at first appropriated to the diocese of a bishop. In 1179 the term is used as synonymous with "diocesis," and applied to the bishopric of Glasgow (Regist. Glasg., pp. 43, 50,

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55). In some instances it would seem to mean the jurisdiction rather than the district. King William the Lion, in a charter to the monks of Kelso, speaks of the waste of Selekyrcke, to which he had transferred his men of Elrehope, as being "of the parish of his vil of Selechirk" (Liber de Calchou, p. 16). But the term parish soon began in Scotland to be applied, though not technically and exclusively, to the baptismal church territory. In the middle of the 12th century Bishop Herbert of Glasgow confirmed to the monks of Kelso the church of Molle, which Uctred, the son of Liulf, gave them, with the lands and *parishes* and all rights belonging to the church. Before the middle of the following century the parish of Molle seems to have been territorially defined, and in a controversy between Melrose and Kelso concerning it, in 1269, the words parish or parishioners (parochia et parochiani) are used much in their present sense. It is of interest also to allude to the fact that the word shire (schira, seyra), so common in our older church records, is often equivalent to "parish," but sometimes it applies to some other "division" of church territory which we cannot now define (Origines Parochiales).

These "islands between Guvan and Pertec" ("Et insulas inter Govan et Perthec") carry us back to a very different Clyde from the noble river of to-day. No trace of them as islands now remains, but some can be recognised, although joined to the land. As will be seen from the reproduction of Blaeu's map, which was published in 1654, there were then six small islands between Stockwell Street and the mouth of the Cart at Renfrew—(1) opposite Carlton Place; (2) at the mouth of the Kelvin on the west side, called Water Inch; (3) White Inch, comprising the district which still bears that name; (4) Buck Inch, a little lower down; (5) King's Inch, at Elderslie, on which stood a castle; (6) Sand Inch, at Renfrew. On what was once the Water Inch the large shipbuilding yard of the Messrs. Henderson is placed. May it not have been upon this island—Water Inch—that the old British warrior king, Rhydderech, erected "the royal house"? Safety from the sudden attack of enemies was a primary consideration in his times, 573 A.D., and for many centuries

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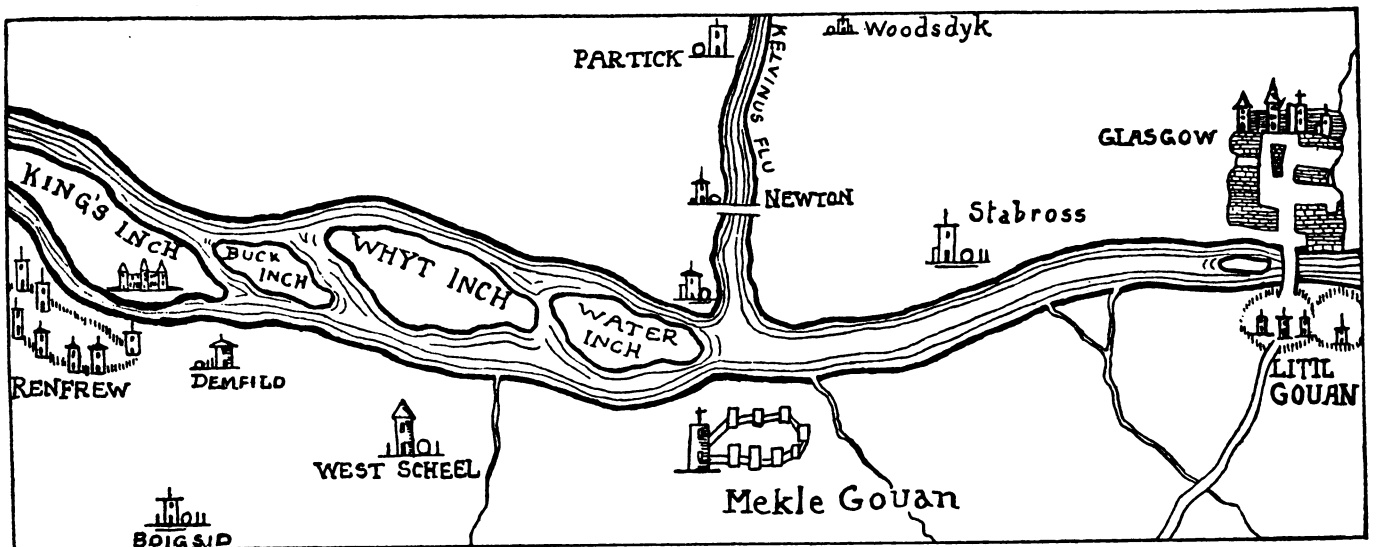

Map showing Islands between Govan and Partick.
(Published by Blaeu in 1654.)

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afterwards. In the Water Inch he had a piece of land with a natural moat ready to his hand. A step and he was with the holy monks of Govan Monastery. There is a probability that besides the Water Inch there may have been another island at the junction of the Kelvin and Clyde prior to the time when Blaeu drew his "picture of Renfrewshire." The instrument talks of "insulas," and it is quite possible that in the days of David the Kelvin may have joined the Clyde above the present ferry-house or Pointhouse, which stands on the east bank, or perhaps the ground on which it is built may originally have been a delta. We cannot, in any other way, account for the fact that this is the only part of the parish of Govan which is found east of the Kelvin.

It is only in the natural order of affairs that the historical side-lights enabling us to glean some knowledge of the parish and mediæval village of Govan are, as has been remarked, for many centuries mainly those relating to ecclesiastical affairs. These are fragmentary and by no means numerous. During the reign of William the Lion we find the church of Govan mentioned in three bulls by Pope Alexander III. The first is dated from Rome on the 25th of March, 1172. It is "addressed to the dean and canons of Glasgow, taking under his protection and that of St. Peter all their canonical possessions, including the parish of Glasgu, the church of Guvan with all Perdehic, a carrucate of land in Glasgu, with the church of Cadiho," etc. On the 29th April, 1174, there is a second bull by the same authority "addressed to Bishop Jocelin and his successors, taking under his protection and that of St. Peter all the possessions present and future of the church of Glasgow, including Glasgu, Guvan, Partheic, Dalmurneck, Conclud, etc.," and on the 19th of April, 1179, the Pope "addressed Bishop Jocelin and his successors, taking under his protection and that of St. Peter all the possessions present and future of the church of Glasgow, including Glasgu with all its pertinents, the burgh of Glasgu with all its liberties which William, King of Scots, granted to it, Guvan, Pertheic, Schedinestun (presumably Shettleston), Kader, Badermonoc, Ballain, and Conclud: Rome, 19th April 1179." Pope Urban III. confirms

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this in a bull dated from Verona on the 12th of June, 1186.

It confirms to "Bishop Joceline all his possessions, including that place in which the church of Glasgow is situated, the burgh of Glasgow, Neutun, Dalmornoc, Carnedin, Cragu, Schedinestun, Guvan, Perthec," and a number of other places mentioned. On the 19th October, 1216, there is another bull by Pope Honorius III. confirming to "the Bishop of Glasgow the possessions of the church of Glasgow, including Glasgw, Guvan, Sedinchistun, and Conclud." Interesting indeed are these brief notices of Govan, recalling as they do an age when the might of Rome, through its emissaries, kept strict watch and ward over all the land; and showing us also that the church of Govan must have been a valued pendicle of the bishopric of Glasgow.

In 1241, King Alexander II. granted "to Bishop William and his successors his lands around Glasgu, viz., the lands of Conclud, Shedinestun, Ballayn, Badermonoc, Possele, Kenmor, Garvach, Neutun, Leys, Rammishoren, and the land of the burgh and other lands of the manor of Glasgu, to be held forever in free forest and forbidding anyone to cut wood or hunt therein without their license." The charter is dated from Kirketun, 12th September, 1241. This "free forest" was a tenure carrying extensive powers; and in 1450, King James II. erected the barony with lands comprising the forest into a regality, thus conferring on the bishop the highest jurisdiction, civil and criminal, which a subject could obtain. That Govan lands were regarded as included in the barony of Glasgow is shown by proceedings which took place before the Privy Council in 1494. Part of the Govan lands were situated in the shire of Renfrew, and the sheriff summoned Archbishop Blacader to attend his "justice are," and even unlawed him for disobeying the summons. Now as set forth in an Act of the Scottish Parliament (1503), which was passed to remedy certain evils under the existing law, it had been the rule that "quhair landis hes bene annext and unite in ane barony, quhilkis lyis in sindry sherefdomes . . . . the inhabitantis of the saidis landis sa annext hes never ansuerit in sheref court nor justice air in the sherefdome

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in the quhilk thai ly, becaus the lordischip that thai war annext to lyis in ane uther sherefdome." The King and Lords of Council gave effect to this view, "and declarit that the lands of Govane are ane pendicle of the barony of Glasgw, for the quhilk the Archbischop of Glasgw aw apperance in the justice are of Lanark alanerly" (Renwick's Barony of Gorbals, Regality Club, fourth series, Part I.). It would appear that, for convenience in management, the barony and regality of Glasgow was shortly after this period divided into four wards, and one of them was the Govan Ward. Its area was practically identical with that of the existing Govan parish. The other wards were Badermonoc Ward, which was nearly co-extensive with the existing Cadder parish; Cuikis Ward, which embraced lands in old Monkland parish and in the eastern portion of what, before the amalgamation of the barony and city parishes in 1898, was the barony parish; and Partick Ward, which included the remainder of the barony parish and apparently the old "township" on the east of the Kelvin, now in Govan parish. The "old extent" or rental, collected from these four wards annually, amounted to £305 6s. in money or "silver maill," about 70 chalders in grain, 14 dozen of salmon, 41 dozen capons, and 30½ dozen of poultry. Of the salmon, eight dozen were contributed by Govan Ward, four dozen by Cuikis Ward, and two dozen by Partick Ward—Badermonach Ward, having no river frontage, did not contribute. The lands in "Govan Wairde" were divided by the bishops and set to rentallers into ten sections, an equal number being on each side of the Clyde. These sections were, in most cases, subdivided into separate holdings, each possessed by a feuar, as the following old table shows :—

SOUTH OF CLYDE.

OLD EXTENT.	LANDS.	HOLDINGS.
£4 0 0	Little Govan	4
30 0 0	Meikle Govan	41
6 0 0	Gorbals	1
4 13 4	Titwood and Shiells ..	1
6 0 0	West Shiells	7
£50 13 4		54

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NORTH OF CLYDE.

OLD EXTENT.	LANDS.	HOLDINGS.
£6 13 4	Barschagrie	5
1 0 8	Gartnavell	2
3 13 4	Balgray	3
1 5 0	Balshagrie	1
0 13 4	Hyndland	2
£13 5 8		13

TOTAL.

OLD EXTENT.	HOLDINGS.
£63 19 0	67

As applied to lands in Scotland, "old extent" is generally understood to mean the rental or annual value forming the basis of taxation in, and perhaps before, the thirteenth century. An oxgang was reckoned equivalent to an area of 13 acres, and eight of these oxgangs made up a ploughgate (= 104 acres Scots measure), which again was estimated as equivalent to a forty shilling land, old extent. While, however, these relative proportions may, in most cases, be accepted as approximately correct, it is almost superfluous to observe that the "extent" can seldom if ever be relied on as giving the area with absolute precision. Meikle Govan was entered in the rental as a £30 land, and this, according to the computation referred to, would represent fifteen ploughgates, or an area of 1560 acres.

We have seen that there were 67 feuars in Govan Ward. In Partick Ward there were 69; Badermonach 62; Cuikis 103—making the total number in the barony 301. In his excellent and exhaustive history of the Barony of Gorbals, Mr. Renwick says that no information can be gleaned regarding the origin and very little as to the organisation of the wards referred to. A complaint relating to the ownership of land at Linningshaugh was, in 1596, remitted to the liners of the burgh of Glasgow and the "sworn men of the waird" where the lands lay, because the complaint concerned tenants both of the barony and the burgh. Each ward had probably its own set of officials, and it may have been from the name of one of these that we get the curious "Cuikis Ward." The other wards bear the designation

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of the principal land contained in them, but there is no place-name in the locality resembling "Cuik."

With reference to these divisions of towns into quarters or wards, it seems to have been an ancient arrangement, corresponding to the division of the great rural associations of the shire into four quarters (Robertson's Scotland under the early Kings, I., 298). The first mention of such a division of Glasgow is on 19th October, 1594; but "quarter-masters" are alluded to in an act of the town council of Edinburgh on 10th August, 1498, and this seems to indicate the existence of a similar division of the burgh into quarters. A more distinct reference to such divisions occurs, however, in an act of the council dated October 14th, 1512, when quarter-masters are again mentioned in connection with the division of the town into three parts, and on 4th October, 1514, when the town was appointed to be divided into four quarters—each under the charge of a bailie and quarter-master (Printed Records of Edinburgh). These arrangements appear to have been made in the Capital to enable the magistrates to deal with the plague, and subsequently quarter-masters were appointed in other burghs in Scotland for a similar purpose. The division of burghs into wards seems to have existed also in many other places, as, for example, in Peebles in 1465 and 1468 (Scottish Burgh Records Society); in Aberdeen in 1505 and 1604; in St. Andrews in 1574; in Lanark in 1595; in Stirling in 1544, etc. Burghal officers, known as quarter-masters, existed in other burghs which do not appear to have been divided into quarters, *e.g.*, in Dysart in 1606; and in Hawick two representatives of each of the seven incorporations of that town were termed quarter-masters (Origines Parochiales).

The division of burghs into quarters appears to have existed in the old Roman towns, and to have been continued in many English towns of Roman origin, such as Lincoln, Chester, Colchester, etc. Counties were also similarly divided. Forfarshire had—Dundee, Kirriemuir, Brechin, and Arbroath; the sheriffdom of Fife had four corresponding divisions—the quarters of Eden, Leven, Inverkeithing, and Dunfermline—besides the constabulary of Crail. The recommendation of

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the framers of the First Book of Discipline in regard to education, to the effect that the ministers, elders, and other learned men in every town were to examine every quarter to ascertain what progress the youths therein had made, seems to indicate that in 1560 the division into quarters was general. Somewhat similar divisions existed in English and Scandinavian counties, and Iceland was similarly divided into four quarters; so that the division of the barony of Glasgow into the four wards mentioned appears just to have been a carrying out of an arrangement which, as we have seen, applied generally all over the country.

It may be here noticed in connection with the sub-divisions of land that a mark land (13s. 4d.=⅓ of a 40s. land), so often alluded to in these old charters and deeds, embraced an area of about 35 Scottish or 44 Imperial acres. Thus, on 27th April, 1567, Sir John Stewart of Minto, who feued part of Polmadie and Corshill (Crosshill), feued to John Burne "the mark land of Corshill," described, curiously enough, as "lying in the parish of Govan and shire of Renfrew." On the 5th February, 1593, John Burne resigned the aforesaid "mark land," and in the Instrument of Resignation it is referred to as "lying in the parish of Govan and shire of Lanark." (See chapters on Parish.)

Further references to our subject are found in a charter of 25th November, 1607, by "John, Archbishop of Glasgow, with consent of the dean and chapter, to Sir George Elphinstoun of Blythswood, his heirs male and assignees whomsoever, of the said six-pound land of old extent of Gorbals and Bridgend; one-half of the five-merk land of Woodside, extending to 33s. 4d. of old extent; the wood or new park of Partick, with its lands; the 13s. 4d. lands of Nether Newtoun; and the 13s. 4d. lands of old extent of Meikle Cowcaldanis, with part of the moss of Meikle Govan belonging thereto, in the barony and regality of Glasgow and sheriffdom of Lanark, which lands Sir George and his predecessors had possessed beyond the memory of man, as well by ancient as by new infeftments granted by the King after the act of annexation, in which the King had erected them into the free barony of Blythswood, exempting them from the

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jurisdiction of the bailie of the barony and regality of Glasgow, and conferring liberty on the inhabitants thereof, and of the lands and town of Bridgend, to exercise all kinds of merchandise and trade. Moreover, the Archbishop, for the good service of Sir George, and for the better preservation of the liberty of the regality, constituted Sir George and his heirs hereditary bailies and justiciars of the said lands. Paying to the Archbishop for Gorbals and Bridgend £6, with eight bolls of meal in the mill at Partick; for Woodside, 33s. 4d., six firlots of malt, six firlots of horse-corn, and the accustomed multures to the said mill; for the said wood 20s.; for Nether Newton, four bolls of meal, four bolls of malt, with three firlots of meal to the said mill; for Meikle Cowcaldanis, as for Nether Newton, and two shillings of augmentation—in all £8 5s. 4d. of money; and doubling the few-farm on the entry of heirs; and for the said office one silver penny at the hill of Blythswood, in name of blench farm, with faithful administration in the same." The archbishop also willed that one sasine taken at Gorbals should stand for all. This charter was confirmed by the King by charter under the great seal, at Edinburgh, on 23rd July, 1611 (Marwick's Glasgow Charters).

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CHAPTER IV.

EDWARD II.—SHIRE OF CLYDESDALE—WYNTOUN'S CRONYKIL—A CURIOUS INVENTORY—GOVAN MANSE IN GLASGOW—QUEEN MARY'S STABLES IN GOVAN—OLD FERRIE BOT INN—JAMES VI. CHARTER, 1577—FIRST PARISH MINISTER—UNIVERSITY AND RIGHT OF PRESENTATION.

On the 20th of July, 1319, the See of Glasgow being vacant, we find the magnanimous King Edward II. of England, then at York, appointing to the prebend of Govan in the church of Glasgow "Johannes de Lund." It is probable that the name was Lundy, a Sir Richard Lundy, a Scotsman by birth and family, attached to the interests of the first Edward (the "hammer of the Scots," as the inscription on his tomb in Westminster has it), being mentioned by Hume. King Edward was then on the eve of his unsuccessful invasion of Scotland, and he issued presentations to a large number of prebends, churches, and other benefices in our country. Included in the list is a grant to William de Houk of the guardianship of the "Hospital of St. John of Polmadde in Cliddisdale." Part of the eastmost division of Govan lands, called Little Govan, was transferred to Polmadie Hospital about the year 1320, and at this period—the 14th century and previously—both Govan and Cathcart were in one shire, known as Clydesdale, hence the term "Polmadde in Cliddisdale." In the beginning of the 15th century the barony of Renfrew was disjoined from Clydesdale and formed into the shire of Renfrew, and from that date Cathcart formed part of Renfrewshire. Part of the Govan lands are still in the county of Renfrew, though the main portions were transferred to the county of Lanark in 1892.

We learn that there was in the cathedral church of Glasgow in 1401 a grievous deficiency of canonical

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By kind permissson of Sir John Stirling-Maxwell.

Mary Queen of Scots.

(From a contemporary portrait at Pollok House.)

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vestments and other "pleasand playokis," as Wyntoun oddly terms them in his Cronykil of Scotland. To supply this deficiency the Bishop, with the concurrence of the Dean and Chapter, imposed upon each of the prebendaries a tax, which was regulated by the amount of their respective incomes. The sum paid towards supplying the said adornments by the prebendary of Govan was 40 shillings.

The name of William de Govan, one of the canons of the church of Glasgow, appears in various old charters, notably in an inventory of all the ornaments, relics, and jewels of the church of Glasgow made by command of the Lord Bishop and Chapter on the 24th of March, 1432. In this curious inventory we find "two silver crosses gilt, adorned with precious stones and having inserted in each of them a small fragment of the original cross; a part of the girdle, a few hairs, and some of the milk of the blessed Virgin; a part of the manger in which our Saviour was laid; part of the scourges of St. Kentigern and St. Thomas of Canterbury; part of the hairy shirt of the patron saint; part of the skin of St. Bartholomew; part of the cloak of St. Martin, and two sacks of the bones of St. Kentigern, St. Tenau, and other saints."

Mr. Thomas Cameron, canon of Glasgow and prebendary of Govan, was elected Rector of the University on the 25th of October, 1453. He was the prothonotary of the Pope. An obit was founded for him in the church of Glasgow. During his tenure of office we catch a quaintly interesting glimpse of the troubles and trials which beset the dwellers in Old Govan when the Clyde was in spate. The most remarkable height on record to which the Clyde has risen is thus taken notice of in Chalmers's Caledonia, Vol. III., p. 587. "In 1454, on the 25th and 26th of November, ther wes ane right gret speit in Clyde* the quhilke brocht down haile housis, bernis, and millis, and put all the toun of Govane in ane flote, quhile thai sat on the housis." Rather a disagreeable experience for the old Govanites, and one which, I am afraid, they would be tolerably

* See that quaint little book, "The Schorte Memoriale of the Scottis Cornikilis," by John Asloan, p. 18. Printed by Thomas Thomson in 1818.

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familiar with, so primitive would be the "banking" of the river in these times. We come to the ecclesiastical again. John Oterburn, prebendary of Govan, subscribed in 1480, along with the other canons and the dean of the Cathedral, a deed increasing the salaries of the vicar's choral. A chaplainry of the Holy Cross was founded in 1497 in the church of Glasgow by Malcolm Durans, one of the canons and prebendary of Govan, and about this period a broader and clearer light begins to dawn upon the township and its internal affairs. Frequent notices relative to Govan appear in the rental books of the barony of Glasgow and the Glasgow protocols from now onward, all tending to bring into greater prominence the life of the old village.

It would seem that the rectors of Govan had their manse in Glasgow, where each canon, for the more effectual performance of cathedral duties, was bound to reside during a considerable portion of the year. The Manse of Stobo—the building said to have been the old Glasgow Mint where coins were struck—appears to have been occupied about 1500 by Prebendary Muirhead, afterwards of Govan. His name appears frequently in the registers. Notably in an amusing case on the 13th of May, 1510, in which Mr. Andrew Birkmyre judicially confessed in presence of James, Archbishop of Glasgow, and the Chapter sitting in judgment, that he said that Mr. Martin Rede, the chancellor and official of Glasgow, was partial against him and that it was not in the power of the said chancellor to fasten and bind his—Andrew's—feet. Among the witnesses was Mr. Thomas Murhede of Govan, who declared that he heard Andrew Birkmyre say to the official in the consistory of Glasgow, when the latter ordered him, as an excommunicated person, to leave the consistory—"It sall pas zour power to fessyn my feyt: ze ar parcial: ze dow nocht to fessyn a scheip hede." Andrew seems to have been of a dour disposition. He complained of being maliciously annoyed by Thomas Murhede and Adam Colquhoun, asserting that the latter violently snatched an instrument concerning his chaplainry out of his hands and still retained it. These premises were denied and remedy by law sought. On the 16th of May the Arch-

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bishop enjoined Birkmyre to stand by the commands of the church and his grace and to perform the penances imposed upon him unless he obtained a dispensation therefor: and to recal the injurious and contemptuous words spoken in judgment against the official: to abstain from similar words under a penalty of £20, and to compear in the consistory and beg pardon on his knees from the official and archbishop in their own names and that of the church. The Bishop's commands were obeyed by Andrew, who, in his declaration, says he had done so "only to please the archbishop and not otherwise."

We also find Mr. Thomas Murhede making gifts to the hospital and founding a chaplainry in the church of St. Roch "without the city of Glasgow," in 1511. The church of St. Roch the Confessor, here noticed, stood near the north port of Glasgow, and appears to have been founded in 1508 by Thomas Murhede. The place is now known by the corrupted appellation of St. Rollox, and is more associated in the minds of the citizens with the odours of a great chemical manufactory than with the blessings of religion. Murhede seems to have died in the prebendal manse of Govan* in Glasgow, on Sabbath day, 13th March, 1511, leaving various properties in the Drygate and other places to individuals and also to the chapel of St. Roch, of which David Murhede, probably a relative, was then chaplain.

A record of 1508 contains in brief the story of a pretty quarrel between the rectors of Govan and Renfrew. The latter, Mr. John Gibson, complained that Rector Colquhoun of Govan, "having appropriated to himself a certain part of the prebendal manse of Renfrew, and innovated upon the said manse, contrary to ancient custom, and unjustly occupied that part of the manse as if belonging to himself and not to the said John, should not prejudice him or his successors, prebendaries of Renfrew, or his prebend in Glasgow. He also protested that he was opposed to such unjust appropriation and occupancy of such part of his manse,

* The manse was situated on the west side of Castle Street, immediately to the north of the old building at the corner of that street and MacLeod Street. (See plan in Vol. XI. of the Glasgow Protocols.)

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and did not, or would not, consent thereto and asked for remedy." Another record, evidently referring to the same dispute, alludes to Rector Gibson of Renfrew as "a contumacious person." An instrument dated from the adjacent hospital of St. Nicholas, 6th August, 1510, tells us that "Mr. John Gibson, prebendary of Renfrew, taking his wallet, cloak, cap, and staff, and taking leave of the bystanders, advancing a little distance for certain reasonable causes moving him thereto, took his journey to his Holiness Pope Julius II. and the Holy Apostolic See, committing himself, his said prebend, and all his property to the protection and defence of his Holiness and the Holy See." And thus we will take our leave of Rector Gibson of Renfrew and turn once more to his opponent, Rector Colquhoun of Govan. The latter was apparently a man of considerable substance in his day. We learn from certain old records that on the 20th of August, 1509, the family of Lennox, so long identified with the affairs of Glasgow, appear to have acquired their first residence in the city—in the stable-green near the Cathedral—by *purchase from Mr. Adam Colquhoun, rector of Govan.** The purchaser was Mathew Stewart, second Earl of Lennox, who was provost of Glasgow in 1510. It was in all probability this nobleman who, as provost, led the citizens of Glasgow to the field of Flodden—not Sir John Stewart of Mynto, who appears to have died a year before the battle, though historians of the city represented him as having perished in the engagement.

In this Stable-green mansion Earl Mathew's widow—the Lady Elizabeth Hamilton, sister of the first Earl of Arran and grand-daughter of James II.—resided three months after her husband's death at Flodden. And in the same dwelling her unhappy descendant, Henry Darnley, the King Consort, resided with his father during his recovery from illness. Here, too, Queen Mary visited him not long before his murder in the Kirk of Field House, Edinburgh. The house called Darnley's cottage, which recently stood in the open space to the south of the ancient site of the episcopal

* The price consisted of a payment of 10 merks yearly. The land acquired from Rector Colquhoun by Lennox was probably surplus ground attached to Govan manse.

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palace, was a modern building (Diocesan Registers of Glasgow, Preface I., pp. 18, 19.) In consequence of the forfeiture of the estates of Mathew, Earl of Lennox, in 1545, the property reverted to the Crown and was bestowed on John Hamilton of Neilisland in 1550, and on John Stuart, commendator of Coldingham, in 1556. With the rescinding of the forfeiture in 1564 it is probable that the mansion was restored to the Earl (Dr. Murray's "Rottenrow of Glasgow"; Regality Club publications).* The manses of Govan and Renfrew were the nearest houses in Glasgow to the "Place of Stablegreyn," where Darnley lay recovering from the small-pox, and there exists the probability that Queen Mary and her retinue, if not accommodated in the Bishops' Castle, may have lodged in either of these two manses —Govan or Renfrew—at the time of the Royal visit in 1567. The curtain was rung down on the closing scene of the unhappy Queen's career in Scotland upon "Gouen Mure,† neire to a hill called Langeside," this moorland being, according to Dr. Leishman, signalised in Scottish history as the place where the army of the beautiful and ill-fated Mary was defeated, after her escape from the Castle of Lochleven, so finely described by Scott in the "Abbot." Previous to the disastrous engagement at Langside, a treaty had been concluded between the Queen Regent and the Protestant party at Leith on the 24th of July, 1559, the confederate lords afterwards proceeding to Linlithgow, and subsequently to Stirling. They apparently had no confidence in the promises of the Queen Regent and feared ("justly," says Dr. Leishman somewhat harshly) that her object was, with the aid of French soldiers, to deprive them both of their civil and religious liberties. They therefore subscribed, for their mutual defence, a bond in which they pledged themselves to hold no communication with her without each

* See also, for further information on the subject, the Glasgow Protocols, Nos. 55, 299, 2456, 2666-7, 2673-4.

† The battle did not take place on "Govan Moor," but at a place a mile south of Govan lands, and in the parish of Cathcart. This was a mistake in Balfour's Annals, and endorsed by Dr. Leishman in the Statistical Account of Govan. See A. M. Scott's "Battle of Langside," p. 73.

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other's knowledge and consent, and they resolved to have a meeting with "their kin and friends upon Govan Muir beside Glasgow." This proposed meeting, however, never took place, the Queen Regent, with equal astuteness to the confederate lords, having taken measures to prevent the same.

We have another reference to the Govan manse in a charter by Mr. John Hay, rector of Renfrew, with consent of Mr. Andrew Hay, last rector, and of the dean, or president, of the chapter of Glasgow. It is dated from Glasgow, 20th May, 1590, and grants in feu-farm to John Rankene, mason, citizen of Glasgow, and Elizabeth Knox, spouses, a waste and ruinous tenement, called the manse of Renfrew, with yard and enclosure, lying near the castle—between the manse of the Earl of Lennox, called Stable Green (purchased from Rector Colquhoun, of Govan, by the Lennox family in 1509) on the west and north, and the manse of the prebend of Govan on the south. The charter is confirmed by King James VI. (with feu-duty payable to the Crown) on 4th November, 1598.

The probability of Queen Mary having occupied the manse of Govan when visiting Glasgow in 1567 has already been alluded to, and it may be added that there exists an old tradition which connects the name of the Queen with certain very ancient houses in Govan. These were demolished many years ago, and their site is now occupied by the Shaw Street tenements on the left-hand side of the thoroughfare going from Govan Road. *They were known as Queen Mary's Stables.* For several years previous to being taken down their condition was exceedingly ruinous and suggestive of great age. A stone with the date 1540 nearly obliterated was discovered while the demolition was going on, but unfortunately this valuable record has been lost. In appearance these buildings were of the usual Scotch sixteenth century architecture, high crow-stepped gables, with thatched roof.

As has been pointed out, the kirk of Govan was served from Glasgow, and in all likelihood the rector would ride down to his charge on the Sabbath.*

* In distant parishes the rectors resided there for a portion of the year. Perhaps the Govan rector, being so near, may have been different. Rural vicars were in constant attendance.

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There would be stabling, doubtless, provided for his horse and also for the vicar's horse, and the respective grooms' animals. The buildings in question were adjacent to the church. What more likely, then, that the Queen, having taken up her residence in the Govan manse in Glasgow—the authorities hard put to it, probably, to provide adequate stabling for Her Majesty's horses—would send several of the animals to the Govan village stables? Such an event as the arrival and stabling of Queen Mary's horses would be an epoch in the sleepy village existence.* The buildings wherein the chargers of Royalty were housed would

[*From a drawing by the Author.*

Water Row, from the Clyde (1901).

immediately assume an importance hitherto undreamt of. Attending the animals would be the Court grooms. These would frequent the old Ferrie-bot Inn and the Water Row. Their visit would leave an indelible impression on the Govanites of that generation. Young men who lived at the time would, when old age reached them, find their memory refreshed and always sure by the date of the Queen's horses' visit. The buildings would naturally be re-christened and become known to the villagers as Queen Mary's Stables. There is no

* The Queen was several times in Glasgow, and it may be that these Govan stables were used for her horses more than once. See Itinerary in Dr. Hay Fleming's "Mary Queen of Scots."

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other way of accounting for this old tradition which still lingers in the district, and it will be acknowledged that our argument rests upon a fairly sound foundation.

In the year 1525 Adam Colquhoun, official of Glasgow, publishes an apostolical letter from Clement VII. which is witnessed by Walter Betoun, rector of Govan (Waltero Betoun, rectore de Gowan). Two years after this the rector of Govan obtained the unenviable celebrity of being one of those who in St. Andrews assisted at the trial and signed the sentence of Patrick Hamilton, the first Protestant martyr of Scotland. The last Popish incumbent of Govan was Stephen Betoun, who was inducted on 19th July, 1560 (Glasgow Protocols, Nos. 1382, 1384). In accordance with the usual practice, he was permitted to retain the temporalities of the office as long as he lived, subject to abatement of a third for support of the reformed minister and other purposes, but before his death he granted a lease of the teinds for nineteen years to his brother, Archibald Betoun, Chantor of Moray. Regarding this Archibald Betoun, we find in James Melville's Diary, p. 49., the following curious historical sidelight, giving an idea of the character of the man from his contemporaries' point of view:—"This (Betoun) was one of the 'twa read nebbit teades' which Mr. Peter Blackburn, the steward of the College, saw in his dream leap out of a 'cup full of barmie drink' when seated, as he supposed himself to be, at the College table.' Though, therefore, the governors of the College of Glasgow got a gift of the benefice of Govan at the death of Stephen Betoun, all that they obtained from it for nearly twenty years was not more than 300 merks annually, the "read nebbit tead" presumably annexing the greater part of the funds. On Stephen Betoun's death the Regent Morton and the King—James VI., then in his minority—made a gift, as we have seen, of the benefice to the College. The charter is dated 13th July, 1577. It conveys to the "College or pedagogy of Glasgow the rectory and vicarage of the parish church of Govan, free from payment of the usual third, and of new confirmed all lands, houses, and revenues granted to it in time past to be applied in the manner set forth in the King's

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New Erection and Foundation of the College therein detailed for the maintenance of a principal, three regents, a steward, four poor students, the principal's servant, a cook and a janitor." Under the constitution of the charter, the Principal was required to reside in the College, and, in addition to the duties imposed upon him with relation to it, had *to preach once every Sunday* and keep the people there in Govan *in right discipline of life and manners.* The patronage of the principalship was declared to belong to the Crown, and had to be exercised within thirty days after intimation of a vacancy; but if the requisite presentation was not so made, then the examination and election of a principal were appointed to be made by the Archbishop of Glasgow, Chancellor of the University, the Rector and Dean of Faculty of the University, the ministers of the churches of Glasgow, Hamilton, Cadder, Monkland, and Renfrew, and such other grave and learned men as the King and his successors should procure to be present; and these elections were appointed to be made "neither for favour nor influence of party, but for worth and superiority in learning." For his services as principal he was appointed to receive 200 merks yearly out of the revenues of the College, and for serving the church of Govan three chalders of corn. Two of the regents were to receive a salary each of fifty merks out of the College revenues before the new erection, and the third a salary of fifty pounds Scots out of the same revenues. The election, presentation, and admission of the regents were vested in the Rector, the Dean of Faculty, and the Principal; and the power of correcting, reproving, and, if necessary, expelling them from the College was vested in the Principal, after examination of the cause and deliberation had been made by the Rector and Dean of Faculty.

The four poor students, called bursars, who were added to the College by the new erection, were appointed to be provided out of the common fruits of the church of Govan, and to be added on the ground of poverty—"being persons whom their friends, being needy, cannot maintain, and who are gifted with excellent parts and knowledge in the faculty of grammar." The presentation of these bursars was

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vested in the Earl of Morton and his heirs, and their admission and collation in the principal, who was enjoined "to take heed that rich men are not admitted instead of poor, nor drones [allowed to] feed upon the hive," but that those received into the College were such as might "prove an ornament to their country and useful to the Church." A delightful old-world flavour about these safe-guardings! We are tempted to wonder how the poor students "of excellent parts and knowledge in the faculty of grammar" succeeded in after life. Did they prove "an ornament to their country and useful to the Church"? Unfortunately no record exists of any of their careers. In the absence of such proof, we are at liberty to think on them "going forth" strengthened mentally, morally, and physically, proving in those strenuous religious times veritable vessels for the uplifting and purification of their country. It would be but fitting sequence to their studentship under the reverend principal, who was appointed, according to our charter, "neither for favour nor influence of party, but for worth and superiority in learning." On the 29th July, 1587, on which day an Act of Parliament was passed annexing church benefices to the Crown, the King granted a charter under the great seal to the College of Glasgow, by which he confirmed to it the rectory and vicarage of Govan, with the teinds and other emoluments disponed to it on 13th July, 1577.

As Betoun apparently had not adopted the new doctrines, the reformers of Govan, taking matters into their own hands, appointed Master James Gibson as their "preacher and exhorter." We may, therefore, have it that Master Gibson was the first Protestant minister who "held forth" in Govan, and he appears to have held office from 1567 to 1576. Since the days of the worthy Master Gibson the parish has had a long line of distinguished ministers. The first was the celebrated Andrew Melville, who held the double office of Principal of the University and Parish Minister of Govan from 1577 until 1580, when he was transferred to St. Andrews.

The expansion of thought which followed the thraldom existing previous to the Reformation,

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doubtless, had its effect on the dwellers in Govan as it had elsewhere. In the newly-found independence and freedom we can imagine the renewed activity which would take place in the lives of the villagers. Extensions of property and extensions of trade would result. Govan began to find its feet. Three years previous—1578—to Andrew Melville demitting the office of Parish Minister, we have Bishop Leslie publishing his "History of Scotland" in Rome, and in it he gives a quaint description of the Govan of those days. He says—"Twa myles abone the toune of Renfrou is a gret and ane large village vpon the watir of Clyd named Goeuan," and he mentions, with the air of a connoisseur, that "its ale is wondrous good." The good Bishop appears to have been well acquainted with the brew. It was made without hops, and after being kept for seven years it was found in taste and colour to be so like Malvoisie as to be mistaken frequently for that wine. Basing their contention upon this statement of Leslie's, some writers have contended that the name of Govan is derived from the two Saxon words signifying "good wine;" "God vin."

As was mentioned, the manse of Govan was situated in Glasgow. M'Ure, in his history of Glasgow (p. 46), says that the rector of Govan, "being one of the thirty-two prebendaries of the Cathedral, had a parsonage house in the Rottenrow," but, as already stated, the manse was really in Castle Street. His place at Govan was supplied by a curate or vicar pensioner. An entry in the Glasgow Session Records of the 22nd July, 1585, quaintly informs us that "the sessioun ordains Robert Ingramme to bring his testimoniall yis day aucht dayes, fra ye Vicare of Govane, be quhom ye said Robert alledges him to be mareit with . . . Gibson, with quhom he haldis house, quilk testimoniall most contein ye tyme and place of their marriage." Let us hope that the said Robert was able to produce the "testimoniall" of marriage from the vicar of Govan, and thus prove his uprightness of living. About this period, and for a good number of years previously, the non-residence of their minister was felt to be a grievance, and it was "havelie lametit" by the Session. At a Presbyterial visitation on the

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1st of June, 1596, "it is fund yt yair is na residence of a mist. at the kirk of Govane, qlk is havelie lametit be ye elderis of ye kirk of Govane." The question appears to have been a burning one, and at the annual visitation of the kirk in 1597, three of the elders, John Rowand in West-schiells, James Crawford in Meikle Govan, and John Anderson, younger, in Little Govan, while informing the members of the Presbytery that they knew "nathing bot honestie" of their minister, yet are compelled as honest men to say that "ye sick are onlie visited be him on ye Sondaye." At a subsequent visitation on the 12th of February, 1606, "it is fund and lametit yat yair is not ane to teiche ye youthe of ye parochin of Govane dwelland besyde ye kirk yairof, quha may avaitt on ye effairis of ye said kirk, and do his dewtie yairuntill, as salbe injoynit to him. And his ordenit as a refer to be comettit to ye nixt Synod, that ye Synod may give yair jugemet and declaratiuon anet."

Another serious grievance at this time also was that the Principal should hold the double office of Principal of the College and Minister of Govan. Complaint regarding this was made as early as 1602. These complaints of the people apparently took effect, for we find that the last Principal who combined the two offices was Robert Boyd, who demitted office in 1621. He appears to have been a deeply learned man, for it was said of him that "he was more eloquent in the French than in his mother tongue, more eloquent in the Latin than in the French, more eloquent in Greek than in Latin." On the 20th December, 1621, Archbishop Law and the other visitors of the College separated the charge of the parish of Govan from the office of Principal of the College, fixed the stipend and emoluments of the minister of the parish, and ordained the patronage to be in the Chancellor, Rector, Dean of Faculty, Principal, and Regents of the College (Original Act in the Archives of the University).

Charles I. granted to the College a charter of confirmation and novodamus under the great seal, dated St. James's, 28th June, 1630. By it was confirmed "all the foundations, mortifications, donations, rights, securities, etc.," which had been conferred on the

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University and College, particularly those rights and revenues which had previously belonged to the friars, preachers, and the vicars of the choir of Glasgow, and to various chaplainries and altarages in the city and neighbourhood, and also certain customs and duties leviable within the burgh, and the right of patronage of the churches of Govan, Renfrew, Kilbride, Dalziel, and Calmonell, and the parsonage and vicarage teinds thereof; also the privileges, jurisdictions, immunities, and exemptions from taxation conferred on the University and College by his royal ancestors, by his father, King James VI., by William Turnbull, Bishop of Glasgow, and the other Bishops and Archbishops of the See, and by all other persons whomsoever, either lay or clerical. The charter also allocated the several salaries payable to the Principal and Regents of the University, under burden of the stipends to the ministers of the several parishes specified.

This charter was ratified by the Parliament of Scotland on the 28th of June, 1633, without prejudice to the rights of James, Duke of Lennox, and his heirs and successors in regard to the infeftments and heritable rights of the office of bailiary and justiciary of the barony and regality of Glasgow; and also under reservation to the magistrates and councillors of the chaplainries of St. John and St. Mary belonging to the burgh (of Glasgow); and of the privileges of the meal market beside the kirk of the Blackfriars. It also provided that the University should be exempted—for its own members resident within it and its servants only, and the houses, lands, tenements, belonging to it in property, but not the tenants dwelling in its houses within the burgh—from the taxations and other impositions leviable from burgesses of the burgh.

This charter gave, as we have seen, full power to the College to present a qualified person to the church and parish of Govan, their presentee *being astricted to reside in the parish.* As has been pointed out, Robert Boyd was the last Principal who combined the two offices. He demitted office in 1621, and was succeeded by Mr. James Sharpe, who was therefore the first minister of Govan who did not at the same time hold the office of Principal of the University. In a "contract

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about the stipend of Mr. Sharpe, minister of Govan, 1637," it is set forth that "be an act of ye governors and masters of the said Universitie and Colledge, maid the twentie day of December, the year of God j^m vi^c and twentie-ane, It was appointit, that ye kirk of ye parochin of Govane, qrof for a lang space the principall of the said Colledge was minister, sould thereafter be served be ane other to be minister resident at the said kirk"; and, further, that, "according to the qlk act, the said Mr. James Scharpe was admitted minister of Govane." So from that time—1637—henceforth the "manse dwelland" of their minister was set alongside the kirk and in the midst of his flock. The question of stipend was considered at the same period, and we find it was agreed that, in addition to the manse and glebe, the stipend of Mr. Sharpe should be increased to "fyve hundredth merks usuall money of the realme, twentie-four bollis beir and eight bollis meil, or the price of the said victuall, according to the yeirly feirs modified be ye Comrs. of Glasgow, togedder with ye whole mailis and duties to be payed to ye tacksman of ye vicarage of ye small teinds." When the office of Minister of Govan was disjoined from that of the Principal, the minister was held bound to "read some public lecture in the common schools of the College, as shall be prescribed to him by the officers of the University and masters of the College." It remains to be added that the right of presentation to the living of Govan remained in the hands of, and was exercised by, the University until the abolition of patronage in 1874.

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CHAPTER V.

CURIOUS LAND SETTLEMENT—GOVAN LAIRDS—LIST OF OLD GOVAN RENTALLERS—"SANCT MUNGO'S WEDO"—"DRAWERIS OF SALMONT"—MAY-DAY, 1599—THE M'NAIRS—CHRISTMAS, 1618.

The parish of Govan was the scene, in the sixteenth century, of a curious land settlement, out of which there arose the race known as "the Govan Lairds." About 1590 a commission was granted to Walter Stewart, styled the Commendator of Blantyre, "to feu the haill lands of the Lordship and Regalitie of Glasgow without demunition of the old Rentall, to the effect that the Tenants being thereby become heritable possessors of their several possessions might be encouradged by vertue and politic to improve that countrie." The regality embraced the city of Glasgow and a wide district on the north, east, and west, comprising the parish of Govan, the parish of Cadder, the barony parish, and a large portion of the parish of Old Monkland. From the lenient tenure of the Church numerous "rentallers," from an earlier period than existing records show, must have settled on these lands. By Walter Stewart the lands of the barony were granted chiefly to the old rentallers, who thus became owners in fee of the properties on which they had formerly resided, the annual rent being converted into a feu-duty. While the great body of the rentallers were of humble rank, not a few churchmen of note and persons of noble and gentle blood did not disdain to accept holdings under the metropolitans of the west. Among the former class are found two rectors of Stobo, and latterly of Govan—Thomas Murheyd and his successor, Adam Colquhoun; Robert Maxwell, afterwards Bishop of Orkney, a son of the House of Nether Pollock, and others. Among rentallers of noble rank

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are found successive generations of the families of Maxwell of Nether Pollok, Boyd of Kilmarnock, Colquhoun of Elen, Stewart of Mynto, and Hamilton of Aikenhead. Surnames, afterwards familiar as "portioners" in the barony of Glasgow, are found as "rentallers," Rowand in Meikle Govan, Anderson in Stobcross, Bogle in Bogle's-hole, Sandyhill, and Shettleston. The Rowands in Govan owned and cultivated their ancient possessions until within a few years ago. (Diocesan Registers, I. pre.)

The poverty of the rentallers in the beginning of the seventeenth century is shown by an Act passed in the eighteenth Parliament of James VI., "anent restitution of the Estate of Bishops," whereby the Act of 1587, annexing the temporality of benefices to the Crown, was annulled. This rescissory Act contained a clause obliging all persons who had obtained grants or leases of Church lands under the rescinded Act to obtain renewals of them from the bishops. And a saving clause to the effect that "Our Sovereign Lord, considering the feuars of the barony of Glasgow to be many in number, and the povirty of the maist pairt of them to be sik as they are not habile to furnish the ordinary charges for renewing their infeftments," had dispensed with the foresaid clause of renewing of feus, etc., in the case of such persons as had taken their feus without diminution of the old rental and "wha shall obtain a ratification from John" [Spottiswoode] "now Archbishop of Glasgow, of the said feus and rights before the Feast of Hallowmas nixt to cum."

The following is a list of these old Govan rentallers who united and obtained from King James VI. a Charter of Confirmation of their feus. There are Hills, and Gibsons, Stevens, Rowans, and other well-known Govan names, the descendants of some being still resident in the parish:—

GEORGE GILMOUR, of the 10s. land in Little Govan.
JOHN ANDERSON, junior, of the 15s. land there.
DAVID BOLL, of the 10s. land there.
JAMES MURDOCH, of the 20s. land there.
WILLIAM STEVINE, son of Thomas Stevine in Meikle Govan, of the 12s. 6d. land there.
The said WILLIAM STEVINE, of three acres of mill lands there.

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JOHN GIBSON, in fee, and Elizabeth Turnbull, widow of John Gibson, in liferent, of the 25s. land in Meikle Govan.
JAMES ANDERSON, of the 6s. 3d. land there.
MRS. HENRY GIBSONE.
THOMAS CLYDSDAILLE, in liferent, and GEORGE CLYDSDAILLE, in fee, of the 6s. 3d. land there.
ANDREW WATSON, of the 6s. 3d. land there.
JAMES ROWAND, in east end of the 18s. 9d. land there.
JAMES SELLARE, there, of the 12s. 6d. land there.
JOHN ANDERSON, otherwise Mathie, there, of the 6s. 3d. land there.
THOMAS HILL, son of Mr. Laures Hill there, of the 25s. land in Ybrocks (Ibrox).
WILLIAM HILL, of the 18s. 9d. land there.
JAMES ANDERSON, son of David Anderson, of the 12s. 6d. land there.
JOHN HILL, of the 21s. 3d. land there.
MARGARET GIBSONE, in liferent, and JANET ROWAND, also in liferent, her daughter, of the 18s. 9d. land there.
JOHN ROWAND, of the 6s. 3d. land there, which formerly belonged to John Anderson, son of Walter Anderson.
ANDREW HILL, of the 25s. land there.
THOMAS M'NAIR, son of John M'Nair, of the 18s. 9d. land there, formerly belonging to John Semple.
THOMAS M'NAIR, senior, in liferent, and JAMES M'NAIR, his son, in fee, of the 25s. land there.
JOHN ROWAND, son of Thomas Rowand, of the 25s. land there.
The said JOHN ROWAND, in east end of Meikle Govan, of the three acres of mill lands there.
ROBERT ANDERSONE, of the 6s. 3d. land there.
ANDREW PATERSONE, of the 12s. 9d. land there.
JAMES ROWANDE, junior, of the 37s. 6d. land there.
The said JAMES ROWANDE, of the 6s. 3d. land there, which formerly belonged to John Clunie.
JOHN PATERSON, son of Andrew Paterson, of the 6s. 3d. land there.
PATRICK JOHNSTONE, of the 12s. 6d. land there.
STEPHEN ROWANDE, junior, of the 18s. 9d. land there.
JANET HILL, in liferent, and THOMAS GIBSON, her son, in fee, of the 12s. 6d. land there.
JAMES RANKINE, of the 6s. 3d. land there.
JOHN ROWAND, or GREENHEAD, of the L. 3, 15s. land in Meikle Govane.
JOHN M'NAIR, in Ferrie Boat,* of the 12s. 6d. land there.
MICHAEL HUTCHESON, in Westshiells, of the 34s. land there.
The said MICHAEL HUTCHESON, of the 8s. 8d. land of Balshegrae.
ISOBEL SNODGRASS, in liferent, and JOHN SHIELLS, her son, in fee, of the 30s. land in Westshiells.
ANDREW PATERSON, senior, in liferent, and JOHN PATERSON, his nephew, in fee, of the 21s. 8d. land there.
The said ANDREW PATERSON, of the 19s. land there.

* The old inn at the Water Row.

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MARION SCOTT, in liferent, and WILLIAM ELPHINSTONE, her son, in fee, of the 15s. land there.
JOHN HUTCHESONE, brother of the said Michael Hutchesone, of the 13s. 4d. land there.
PATRICK BROWNSIDE, of the 4s. 4d. land there.
WALTER M'NAIR there, of the 13. 4d. land there.
MATTHEW MONTGOMERIE, of the 15s. 8d. land there.
PATRICK MATTHEW, in liferent, and JOHN STEWART DE ROSSLAND,* in fee, of the 4s. 4d. land there.
The said JOHN STEWART OF ROSSLAND, of the 4s. 4d. land there, formerly belonging to Walter Rowand.
The said JOHN STEWART, of the other 8s. 8d. land in Balshagrae.
WILLIAM ALEXANDER there, of the 4s. 4d. land there.
JOHN ROWAND, son of John Rowand there, of the 4s. 4d. land there.
JOHN REID and ROBERT HUTCHESON in Garthnavil, of the 8s. 11d. land there.
WILLIAM ANDERSON, of the 8s. 11d. land there.
JOHN SHANKS, of the 8s. 11d. land there.
JAMES GIBSONE in Balgray, of the 12s. 6d. land there.
JOHN and BARTHOLOMEW DUNCANS, of the 12s. 6d. land there.
ROBERT HUTCHESONE there, of the 12s. 6d. land there.
The said Mr. HENRY GIBSONE of the 12s. 6d. land there.
AGNES GIBSONE in Hyndland, in liferent, and NINIAN DENNISTOUNE, her son, in fee, of the 5s. land in Hyndland.
JOHN SHEILLS and WILLIAM ROBERTSON in Partick, of the 13s. 4d. land there.
ROBERT ALLANESON, of the 6s. 8d. land there.
WILLIAM SHEILLS there, of the 20s. land there.
JOHN ALLAN, of the 6s. 8d. land there.
THOMAS SHANKS, of the 13s. 4d. land there.
WALTER CRAIG, of the 6s. 8d. land there.
JOHN ALEXANDER, of the 6s. 8d. land there.
JOHN CRAWFORD, of the 6s. 8d. land there.
WILLIAM YOUNGER, of the 6s. 8d. land, which formerly belonged to William Harvie, and of the 26s. 8d. land, and of the yard called the Bishop's Orchard, and of the 6s. 8d. land called Browland, and of three acres of mill lands there.
JOHN CUMING, in Byres of Partick, of the 20s. land there.

The heritors had previously possessed their lands as the "kindly rentallers" of the Archbishop of Glasgow, and in this connection the tenure which prevailed in the case of the Govan lands, in pre-Reformation times, was different from that by which land was ordinarily held in Scotland. As a rule, the tenure was feudal, implying that the owners were at the call of the Sovereign for military expeditions, and that they had

* This John Stewart of Rossland is elsewhere described in the charter as holding "the office of forester and custodier of the new forest called the Park of Partick."

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written titles. As was mentioned in the text, King David, about 1147, granted the whole land of Govan to the church of Glasgow. That land from an early period was occupied by numerous husbandmen, each of whom rendered to the Church an annual payment for his holding. The Church allowed them and their successors to remain undisturbed in their possession, and in this way the rentaller tenure grew up. In Govan, from 1450 onwards, the rentallers of the lands were free from all military service on behalf of the Crown. A rental right was acquired—(1) by grant from the Church where the previous holder had died without heirs; (2) by succession; (3) by purchase of the "kyndness" (as the right was called) from the rentaller, when the Church gave her consent—which was not always the case; or (4) by marrying the daughter of a rentaller. A female rentaller could communicate her right to her husband. When the right came by succession, the liferent of the new rentaller's father and mother was always reserved. There was also an exceptional right or custom in connection with the Church's lands. It was known as "Sanct Mungo's Wedo," and meant that the widow of a tenant while she remained single was allowed the liferent; and there were even cases where forfeiture, consequent upon the re-marriage of the widow, was relaxed. The tenure by which the rentallers held was lenient, and the Govan rental right obviously partook largely of the family character. When a rentaller died, his successor attended on the regality court day at the Cathedral and got himself entered, in the Archbishop's own handwriting, in the rental book, upon payment of the usual grassum or composition; and the notary who was in attendance at the court gave a receipt in the form of a copy of the very brief entry in the book. The majority of the rentallers on the south side of the river were in poor circumstances, but there are among us to this day families whose ancestors were rentallers under the Church—such as the Maxwells of Pollok for the Pollokshields lands, and, until quite lately, the Stevens and Rowans for Bellahouston and Dumbreck. The existence of this old rentaller tenure explains why in Govan parish there have been no very large estates,

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the holdings of these old husbandmen being generally small. In Meikle Govan and the different quarters thereof—viz., East Shiells and West Shiells, Haggs, Titwood, Dumbreck, Ibrox, and Teucherhill—the smaller holdings of croft land were about seventeen acres Scots, or twenty imperial acres, being 6s. 3d. lands of Old Extent.

These various crofts were mixed up in strips and cultivated on the run-rig system, but the pasturage was held in common. The right to this was regulated, no doubt, as in other parts of the country, by the size of the arable holdings. These pasturage commons were scattered throughout the parish, and to this day the burghers of Govan derive a good deal of benefit in the shape of diminution of taxation by the income accruing to them or their representatives in the civic council, by the letting out, etc., of the old common lands. Many of the rentallers, however, had larger holdings of sixty, eighty, and even one hundred and eighty imperial acres, these being multiples of the 6s. 3d. unit.

The unit holding in the district of Little Govan was smaller than that of Meikle Govan, extending to a 5s. land, or about sixteen imperial acres. The rents paid to the archbishopric were small, being the ancient customary rents according to the old extent valuation, and never increased; for Govan was "ancient" or "Royal demesne" before it came into the hands of the Church. Thus, twenty acres yielded a rent of 6s. 3d., or a corresponding amount of grain or poultry, and, where the lands bordered on the Clyde, a few salmon.

Upon the death of a Govan rentaller a heriot or fine was due by the widow or heir to the Archbishop, and upon the sale of a holding a larger fine or grassum was due from the purchaser. The lands of Govan were also thirled to the Archbishop's Mill of Partick, a somewhat heavy exaction in those days, when all grain had to be ground at the Lord's Mill, and payment made of multures and sequels. There were also services of carriage to be rendered by the Archbishop's tenants, and they had to attend his courts three times a year to make up a jury or assize when such was held necessary.

Regarding the monetary value of these "kindly"

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tennandries in Govan about the period we speak of —the Reformation—the "kyndness" of a 6s. 3d. messuage (*i.e.*, twenty acres of land with house and buildings) in Meikle Govan was sold in 1563 for one hundred and forty merks, or £93 6s. 8d. Scots, which is equal to about three hundred years' purchase of the rental. These facts show us the very easy terms upon which the kindly tenants of St. Mungo held their land prior to the Reformation. All these rental rights were feudalized at the Reformation, and the lands thereafter came to be held by ordinary written title. As remarked before, under the privilege known as "Sanct Mungo's Wedo," the widow of a rentaller was entitled, while she remained single, to hold her husband's lands for life. On re-marriage the right was forfeited, but the tenure was lenient, and it was customary for widows to obtain a relaxation of the rule; and in the exercise of a dispensation of this sort Gorbals—at that period a part of the parish of Govan—first appears in the Archbishop's (of Glasgow) rental book. The widow of John Elphinstone had succeeded her husband in the possession of the lands, and on re-marriage, without license of the Bishop, had forfeited her right. On 14th June, 1520, however, the following entry occurs in the rental book:—"Betragis Wardlaw remytit off the forfattour led on hir for contrakyn off mariage, but leciance, and rentalit agayn in the vj mark land off the Bryghend." Thus restored to possession, the widow, on 22nd March of the following year, 1521-2, transferred the rental right to her son, but reserved her own liferent:—"George Elphistoun, son of umwyle Jone Elphistoun, rentalit in vj lib. land off Bryghend and Gorbaldis, in Gwfane (Govan) Ward, be consent of his modyr, Beatrise Wardlaw, scho brukand for hyr tyme, and efftyr hyr the said George." (Diocesan Reg., I., p. 82.) Beatrice Wardlaw appears to have survived her son, George Elphinstone, and he did not get possession of Gorbals. He and his wife, Elizabeth Colquhoune, were, however, entered as rentallers in the 2½ mark land of Woodside, in Partick Ward, on 18th August, 1534. On 17th May, 1554, there was "rentallit George Elphinstone, son to umquhyll George Elphinstone, burges of Glasgo, and oye (grandson) to

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Beatrice Wardlaw, in to nyne mark land of Gorbaldis and Brigend, vacand last be the deces of his wmquhil guiddaime (grandmother) last possessour thairof."

Govan life in the closing years of the sixteenth century would appear to have had its "hub" near the "Ferry House." This ancient hostelry still stands, and although no longer fulfilling the duties of public hospitality, is little altered from these days either internally or externally. Indeed, the storms and winds of three centuries have, to all outward seeming, dealt lightly with the structure, which rears its honest-looking old frontage, with theekit cap, alongside the busy vehicular ferry-road of to-day. The Parish Kirk and kirkyard were adjacent to the "Ferry bot Inn," and the theekit cottages of the village straggled in ungainly manner from the ferry along the present Govan Road to about the present junction of Main Street with the central thoroughfare—opposite Messrs. Mackie & Thomson's shipbuilding yard. It was then spoken of as the town of Meikle Govan, to distinguish it from "Litelgovan" situated in the eastern portion of the parish, near the spot where Bishop Rae erected his stone bridge across the Clyde (opposite what is now Stockwell) in 1345.

Salmon-fishing and agriculture engaged the industry of the inhabitants. Indeed, the pursuit of the lordly salmon appears to have been enthusiastically indulged in. Witness this sidelight on the desecration of Sabbath by labour on the holy day which was thundered from the pulpit of Govan kirk in 1598. It speaks volumes as to the village life of these days. "Yat ye draweris of salmont in ye watter of Clyde presume no to drawe salmont heireft in ye said watter wpone ye sondaye wndder ye panes of ye contravenaris heirof prescryvit and set doun in ye assemblie of ye kirk." Delightfully quaint is the phrasing "ye draweris of salmont," and reminiscent of days, which, despite the Sabbath desecration compained of, one would gladly welcome back.

There was a hostelry in the village—now the centre house of the group of old-fashioned thatched cottages alongside the vehicular ferry at the Water Row—kept by one John M'Nair, assisted by his wife, Janet Dunlop. John owned a slice of the Govan land, and also the

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W. Simpson, R.I.

The Clydeside at Govan Ferry, 1845.

By permission of Glasgow Corporation. *Sam Bough, R.S.A.*

Govan Ferry.

(Showing old Point House, Church Steeple, and Water Row.)

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coble in which passengers were ferried over the Clyde, horses and cattle wading across. Naturally these advantages enjoyed by John gave him a position in the community, and he was probably the most important man in the town. Indeed, the "M'Nairs" seem to have been folks of considerable standing in the district. The name appears frequently in the rental book of the barony of Glasgow, and so far back as 1521, in April of that year, we find "Jhonne Maknair rentallit in 20s. terrarum de Mykil Gwffane by consent of his fader." Again an entry in the rental book in 1526 informs us that "Thom M'Nayr rentalit in vjs. viijd. (6s. 8d.) land of Gevan." On the 26th day of February, 1527, "Eodem die et anno, is rentalit Nycoll M'Nayre in vjs. viijd. land in Mekle Gowen," and again upon August 28th, 1528, "The sammyn day is rentalit Thom MakNayre in half-merk land of Gewan" (half-merk land would extend to about twenty-five acres). All of which entries go to show us that in point of material welfare the Govan M'Nairs of that ilk were persons of substance, and doubtless in their little day and generation reaped the full advantage of being such.

The "Ferry bot," presided over by our friend, Janet Dunlop, wife of John M'Nair, was a favourite rendezvous of jovial spirits, and sometimes it fell under the ban of the lynx-eyed Kirk Session. Thus an old M.S. ecclesiastical record tells us that one Patrick Erskine, who was inhibited by the Presbytery the company of a certain person, was, in 1593, found to have been twice drinking with his co-offender in "Johnne M'Nair in ferrie bot of govane" in contravention of the Kirk's injunctions. Patrick is found by the Presbytery to have incurred the sentence of excommunication, and request is ordained to be made to the magistrates of Glasgow to expel him furth of their city as a person void of "ye feir of God and Man." As for the co-offender, the Presbytery ordained that she "be put in ye Joggis ye next Sondaye at ye Kirk of Govane, and yat willinglie scho etir yairin ye said Daye or ellis yat scho be summarlie excoicat ye said Daye. In case willinglie scho etir not in ye said Joggis ye said Daye."

In another case, Alexander Neill, in disobedience to

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the citations and voice of the Kirk, was found with another offender to have, in 1599, been drinking "at ye ferrie hous in govane," and the magistrates of the city are requested to cause their officers to pass and apprehend him and to put him within the Tolbooth of the city, therein to remain till he find surety, under a penalty of £10, that he would compear before the Presbytery at their next weekly meeting to answer "to ye instance of ye Kirk." The Church in these times kept a paternal eye on the flock, but its behests were not always obeyed by those "fishers and agriculturists" of Meikle Govane.

A glimpse of this is afforded from the same records. Prior to the Reformation, "sundrie games and pastymes" seem to have taken place regularly in Meikle Govane on the Sundays. This evil practice the Presbytery and Session laboured to abolish, managing after a long fight to do so. But the misdoings of these old Sabbath-breakers, with the punishments dealt out by the Session, forms quaint and curious reading. May-day plays were in much vogue, and we learn that on the 1st of May, 1599, there was a great gathering at Govan of young men from the village and surrounding district. A play was enacted and doubtless other games. For their share in the affair twenty-six young men, including James Rowand, son of John Rowand, "sweitman" in the village, and John Shanks, tailor in the village, were brought before the Presbytery. They had to find sureties that in future they would obey the injunctions of the Church, and not take part in plays on Sunday. This case seems to have been among the last, although on 18th May, 1612, several young men from Rutherglen appeared before the Presbytery and confessed their offence "in dancing the SUOORDE dance in Gova vpo ane sabaoth daye." Again, in June, 1612, Thomas blakwood in Kirklie, "for prophaning the sabboth daye in being ringleader to the match played in shooting of gunes and other vaine games and pastymes," had to give 20s. to the kirk of Govane and also make public repentance within the said kirk on the Sondaye.

The relationship betwixt man and wife was also carefully watched by the Session. Cases of unhappy

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domestic life were dealt with by that body, and parties not obeying their behests were handed over to the Presbytery. In 1593 "Marioun Andersone in Govane," for abusing her husband and troubling the Kirk, was arraigned before the Presbytery, and their finding was: "The presbiterie ordenis Marioun Andersone in Govane for troubling ye kirk to mak her repetance in Linig cleithis in her paroche Kirk the nixt Sondaye," also to "compeir before the sessioun of Govane and yair to cofess her falt." The Session were also to inquire and see "gif sho hes dung her gudman." In 1601 we find a case of so very grave a character that the parties had to make their repentance "in ye piller win ye paroche kirk of Govane In sek cleyt bairfuttit bairleggit and bairheddit wt all humilitie sex severall sondayes." This little exhibition had to take place during divine service, and besides filling the kirk, would doubtless provide fruitful gossip for the village before and after the event.

In these far past times the Kirk Session appears to have performed the functions now relegated to the burgh police court. The beadle—Adam M'Nair, kinsman of John M'Nair, the ferryman—fulfilled the duties of police officer. To him would fall the task of warning the accused parties when and where to appear for judgment; of placing the condemned on the "piller" of repentance, and of affixing the jougs and branks, with which latter appurtenances Govan kirk, like its other neighbours of the time, would in all probability be provided.

Absence from church was regarded as matter of grave import and dealt with accordingly by the Session. If the party failed to have a satisfactory excuse, then punishment followed. Thus Jo Scheillis in Demfield, in respect of his absence from church, is by the Presbytery, in 1595, ordained to pay to the treasurer of Govan kirk 20s. "betwixt and sondaye nixt tocu," and to find surety, under the penalty of ten merks, "to keip ye kirk on ye sondaye in all tymes tocu." John found a surety in the person of Stephen Hill, maltman, burgess of Glasgow; but there being a fear that he would disregard the Church's injunctions in the time of a fast, in connection with the baptism of his child, he

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had to find further surety "yt ye said Jo sall mak na baquettis Denar or ony kynd of suptuous cheir at ye baptisme of his barne Durig ye tyme of ye put fast."

Defamation of character, or what is now termed the "use of abusive language," was severely dealt with by the Presbytery. In 1594 "Steven Johnston in Mekill Govane" had called a certain person bad names. That person complained to the Session, who, after inquiry, gave sentence against Steven. But as he was disobedient to "ye woice and ordinace of ye kirk past aganis him," the Presbytery took the matter in hand with success. In April the minister of Govan is ordained to proceed in the first admonition against the offender "ye nixt sondaye oppinlie fur[t] of pulpet." However, before the awful sentence of excommunication was pronounced Steven became penitent and submitted a surety in the person of a Glasgow burgess that he would obey the injunctions of the Church; and on the 27th of May he was directed to pass to the kirk of Govan on Sunday next, pay a fixed sum of money to the treasurer, and "to mak his publict repetance in ye pilleir w[t] in ye said kirk," as well as to ask the offended person's forgiveness.

A case of considerable importance, and which apparently caused the Presbytery a lot of anxious thought and trouble, came before that body in 1601. The defamed party was James Hill of Ibrox, an elder in Govan kirk. It was stated that Robert Anderson in "mekill govane" had called the good elder "ane fals theve Lamit Ladroun carrill and all yt he had gottin be falset and deceit, loose . . . begger carrill and cu of beggeris." It was also alleged against the accused "yt he cast doun the sud (summons) on ye grund yt he boastit Adae M'Nair ye officiar," and threatened other exposures of Hill. Eight witnesses were summoned to Blackfriars' Kirk to give evidence. They were—Thomas M'Nair in Meikle Govan, John Rowand in West Scheill, Andrew Paterson in West Scheill, John M'Nair in "ferrie boat," William Paull in Govan, James Anderson, son of the deceased David Anderson, and James Anderson in east end of Govan. Part of the allegations was admitted, but the Presbytery found the whole proved and passed a formidable

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sentence. First of all, Anderson was at once to pay to the treasurer of Govan kirk two merks. Then he was to make his public repentance on the pillar the following Sunday with all humility in his own clothes, "and you to ask God and his kirk and ye said James Hill, ane elder of ye kirk foirsaid, quho he has vniustlie sclanderit forgivenes on his kneis for speiking ye foirsaid sclanderous wordis agais ye said James and for miswsing of ye said ex^{t} of ye said sud and farder Decrnis and ordenis ye said Robert neveir to speik ane evill or sclanderous word agais ye said James in ony tymes to cum under ye pae of ten lib. money. And . . . ordanis ye said rob^{t} to find ane sufficiet sourtie for obediece of ye samig. And in case yt ye said robert sall no^{t} find ye said sourtie then and in yt case ye said presbyterie ordenis ye minist^{r} of ye kirk of govane to proceid agais ye said rob^{t} for his Disobediece to ye admonitionis And to begin y^{r} to ye nixt sondaye. And in case of ye said rob^{t} cotinewing in Disobediece be Denuciaun of ye setence of excoitioun aganis him."

The good folks of Govan in these days did not stop at words, but oftimes proceeded to blows, weapons being frequently used. Every farmer or landowner was possessed of a whinger, or short sword, and it was not an uncommon practice to wear them to kirk. On 15th March, 1595, Principal Sharp conducted the service as usual in Govan kirk, and although there was baptism after service, yet as soon as the service was over, as was customary, a portion of the congregation dispersed. Robert Matthew, the farmer in Balshagray, had apparently an ill-will to Thomas M'Nair of Govan, and on this particular Sunday, as they were both leaving the kirk, Matthew, drawing his sword, attacked Thomas, drove him into the kirkyard, and spoke so loudly and boastingly that the minister "was trublit in ye ministraun of ye sacramet of baptisme." The matter was a serious one, and after certain procedure "the presbiterie comendis him to ye baillie of ye baronie of Glasgow yt his wald cause put him in ye castell y^{r} in to remae qll the kirk prescryve ininctionis to ye said rob^{t} to be obeyit for his offens." The accused remained in the castle of Glasgow (where the Royal Infirmary now stands) till the 22nd of May, when, finding a surety, he was liberated.

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The Session regarded gangrel bodies with suspicion. In 1600 Adam M'Nair had summoned William Hamilton and Margaret Thomson, "vagabundis in Govane," to a Presbytery meeting at the Blackfriars' Kirk in Glasgow, but not compearing, they were found disobedient, and to be admonished by the minister of Govan. Faithless swains apparently are not a product altogether of modern times, as the following interesting sidelight shows. In 1594 John Anderson in Little Govan had to find surety to the Presbytery "y^{t} he sall marie god willing Katherine rob-toun parochiner of Hamiltoune w^{t}in tyetie Dayes nixt tocu . . . And mak na brydellis deirer nor xl d. p-sone y^{t} salhappen to be at ye banquet eft^{r} ye marriage wnder ye pae of ten m^{r}kis money."

Of outstanding interest is the entry dealing with the Presbytery's resolution of 16th October, 1618:—"To intimat to our people on sondaye next out of pulpitt yt yei meitt on frydaye come eicht days ye 25 of Decemb to heir sermon vpon the nativitie and birth of Christ." This is a notable occasion in the annals of the burgh, for on that date, 25th December, 1618, Christmas Day was observed in the Govan kirk for the first time under Presbyterian rule—after the Reformation. Since the Reformation there have been eighteen ministers of Govan (including the present incumbent).

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Title-page First Volume Session Records.

(Dated 15th May, 1651.)

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CHAPTER VI.

THE SESSION RECORDS—LIST OF ELDERS, 1651—A PYNT OF AILL—THE BAIRNIS IN PARTICKE—STATE OF PARTICK—RULING ELDERS—GOVANITES AND BATTLE OF DUNBAR—TURKISH PIRATES—AN EARLY GOVAN MARINER—THE ANCIENT ACCOUNT BOOK—TOLLING THE CURFEW.

A delightfully quaint epitome of old Govan life is afforded us by the Parish Kirk Session records. Indeed, in this respect, these are to the antiquarian a perfect mine of ancient lore. As we peruse the peculiar but beautiful script with which they are transcribed, the homely customs of a bye-gone time and of generations of Govanites long since passed away speak from the pages to us. We hear these old-world voices and we see an austere Presbyterian race. We see the elders of the village, grave, stern-countenanced men; men who sympathised, and doubtless many a time and oft were "out" with the persecuted Covenanters on the bare Ayrshire hillside or the moorlands by the Mearns. They ruled the village with a heavy hand but just. They believed, acted accordingly, that "That man hath perfect blessedness who walketh not astray." In this belief, and strong with the faith of a Divine mission, they endeavoured to guide the flock. But the flock, like flocks of later days, was a perverse one.

The records of the Kirk Session contain an uninterrupted history of its proceedings from January 15th, 1710. About 1835 an old volume was discovered and restored to the Session by the descendants of a former elder of the parish. It commences with the 15th of May, 1651, and ends with the 11th of May, 1662. From that date until 1710 the records are amissing, and where they have disappeared to remains a mystery. We have

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curious glimpses of the backslidings of the folks of Govan and Partick in that old book of records, glimpses which are sufficient to tell us what a loss is entailed in the amissing books. We give a fine reproduction of the title page of this old volume, whereon we are informed that it is "Ye Sessioune Booke of ye Kirke of Govane. Begun upoune ye 15 day of May anno 1651 Qrn are contained ye actis and ordinances of ye said Sessioun for keeping of good ordour and discipline in ye said Kirke. Ye names of ye elders subscribet. Maister Heugh Binning Minister." Then follows a list of the elders, the descendants of some being still resident in the parish:—David Andersone, James Baillzie, Abraham Scheells, George Craigg, Andro Kinnoche, Adame Gemmill, Johnne Patersone, Stiphen Rowand, Johnne Rowand, Johnne Johnnestoune, Johnne Rowand of Merilands, Andro Loganne, Johnne Allansone, James Baird, Thomas Rowand, yr., Robert Logane, David Scott, George Murdoche, James Murdoche, Robert Barr, Johnne Scheel, James Rowand, James Gibsone, Johnne Andersone.

Indulging in strong liquors to excess, Sabbath-breaking, sleeping in kirk during "tyme of sermone," and graver "sinnes" we find reported in quaint but succinct manner in its pages. Let the fathers of these times speak for themselves. Take the entries for 15th May, 1651—"The whilk day the Minister, David Andersone of Gartnavil, James bailly in Particke, Johnne Stiphen in Govane, James baird, Johnne Johnnestonne, Johnne Patersonne, James Murdoche in Craigtoune, James Gibsoune, David Scott in brigend, Robert Logane, yr., Andro Scheels, in eist Scheels and Robert Barr elders being all present in ye Sessiounne compeared Thomas Smithe and confest his sinne of Drunkines (whiche often and diverse tymes befor he denied), he wes appoynted be ye saids Min^r and elders to come and declair his sorrow for ye saimen ye nixt Lord's day, in presence of ye congregatioune, and be rebookit, and wes exhorted to refrain from suche lyke drunkines in tyme coming." Let us hope that the said Thomas profited thereby.

For quaintness of expression the following entry is perfectly delightful:—"Compeared the same day Eliza-

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beth Craig, spouse to Johne Watsoune in Govanne, and being interrogat wherfor shoe did detain ane drunkin man in her hous and sel aill to him: shoe denied yt yr wes any drunkin man in her hous, bot ane cam (whom shoe knew not) and desired a pynt of aill and so went his way: Shoe was appoyntit to be present the nixt sessioune day and the officier to sumond Johnne Andersoune and Amos Hood his witnessis yrto." There is just a touch of romance in the fleeting glimpse preserved to us of that man "who desired a pynt of aill and went his way," doubtless rejoicing. Who or what was he? Mayhaps a messenger from old David Leslie in Edinburgh on his way to raise troops in the west for the veteran; or mayhaps a pilgrim on his journey to Rome.

Prohibition was not unknown in these times, as the entry for 19th April, 1655, reveals:—"The same, Aprile 15 [last Lord's Day], an old act, March 21, 1650, being renewed was pubkly red yt whosoever shall sell drink to drunken folk shall come under the same censure w^t drunkards, as also all y^t keep drunkards or any drinking, or fills drink to any save upon cases of necessitie till ten hours at evin." Fully half a century after this we find the "drink question" still to the fore. On August 26th, 1711, "Eodem die the session passed an act to make application to ye Bailie and constables of ye Gorbells that ye civilizers should go through ye Gorbells and y^t ye elders should be joyned w^t ym in picking out of some men y^t may be prudent, zealous, and blameless, to go through change houses and oyr places qr they can find those y^t haunts ale houses untimely: or other acts of lousness and ungodliness y^t so they may give ym up to ye bailie y^t he may punish ym according to law." We trust that these "prudent, zealous, and blameless" men were able to purge the Gorbells of the "lousness and ungodliness" complained of.

The baptism of bairns is productive of some curious entries, the question of legitimacy being apparently all-important. On May 29th, 1651, there is "an act anent these who comes and brings not testificat" of marriage. Thus—"The whilke day the Sessioune understanding that thair is ane gret many who uses to come w^t their

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children to be baptised not only of thair awine parochine bot also from uther paroches and does not bring nather ane testificat nor ane elder testifieing y^r lawfull mariage, and y^t y^r is no impediment. Theirfoir the Minister and Elderis with ane consent for preventing of suche and helping the samen in tyme comeing Have enactit and statutt, and be thir pnts Actis and statuts That no persone w^tout the paroche nor w^t in the same gett their bairnes bookit whom they sall happin to bring to be baptyzed untill they aither bring and produce ane testimoniall or their ane elder of y^r quarter declairing y^r lawfull mariage and that y^r is no impediment why their bairnes may not be baptized and ordaines $intima^{tn}$ of this Act to be made be nixt Lordis Day." In October of the same year intimation was made regarding the taking of children to other parishes to be baptised. The Session objected, and on the 29th October "it was ordainit to be intimat the nixt Sabbath that no personne or personnes goe out of his paroche to any other paroche for baptisme to y^r childern untill they acquent ye clerke y^rin and get his testimoniall y^r of and his bairne to be bookit in the register of the sd paroche of govane."

There are many notices in the volume relative to Partick, whose folks, judging by these, appear to have been a somewhat erring generation. The rank and file were not exactly to blame. The example given them by their elders, as the following minute shows, was not of the best, and excuses the frequent lapses in duty of the people. On 22nd May, 1651, "it was appoyntit that intimation sould be maid be the minister out of pulpit desiring the elders in Partick syde to keep the sessiounne more frequently nor they use to doe, becaus it wes fund they wer become verie negligent of y^r dewty." The "bairnis in Particke" seemed to partake of the same perverse nature as their fathers. A strong indictment against these erring youngsters is found in the minute of "2 Apryll, 1652," wherein it is declared to the session "that ye bairnes in particke are verie much givin to swearing and prophainis the lord's day by playing in tyme of sermone on ye lord's day." At the very next meeting of the Session there "compeared William Allane and Johnne Crose in

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particke and were boith of them exhorted to educat and instruct y^r bairnes better and nowayes sufferr ym to abuise ye sabbath day by playing and swearing and staying from ye kirke utherwayes they sould be punished for ym." Do what they could, the Govan Session apparently made little impression upon these Partick backsliders. Their bairns still continued to break the Sabbath. Could it be that their parents connived at these pranks? There is just a suspicion of this: that instead of checking his bairns the perverse Partick parent "winked" at the retrogression. On September 10th, 1654, the Session were still hammering at the "Particke bairnes," and "ordained to be snd John Wetherspoon for his son, Wm. Allan for his son, Jon Younger for his, Marion Huchison for hers, and Robt. Dorroch for his son, their breach of Sabbath by playing at the watter side in the tyme of sermone, in Particke, on Septr. 3, 1654." The state of Partick must have been sad indeed, despite the fatherly care of their Govan neighbours. Witness this minute of 14th August, 1656. The Session "being informed of John P. younger in Particke his drawing a knyfe to another boy named James W. does appoynt him to bee brought heer the nixt day and to bee given up to the constable for putting him in the stocks." On 6th January, 1653, there is an act appointing a seat in the eisterneuke of the waster loft to the feuars of Partick.

Govan has become a home for Highlanders these latter years, but according to a minute in the Session Records of 1659 there seems to have been even then a great many northerners in the district. Their moral code was apparently not over strict. On February 8th of the year mentioned "the session, taking to consideration y^t y^r was many heilandmen in the toune of govane who have no testimoniall of the conversation and does take unto ymselves wives not according to order practised in the church, appointed a supplication to be drawn up and presented to ye justice of peace for removing of ym hence."

In 1652 the Govan ferryman was Andro Cochrane. Andro appears to have offended the powers, and on the 16th "Apryll" he compeared before the Session. He was "accused for transporting people over ye watter on ye

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Lord's Day in tyme of sermone and betwixt the sermones." Andro denied the charge, and said the people "took ye bot ymselves in his absence." The Session apparently had their doubts, and Andro was ordained never to transport anyone over the water unless "some of ye elders wer y^r and desired ye same." Our friend had also some domestic trouble, his daughter being not all that could be desired, the entry ending with a request to Andro "to reprove his daughter."

Highly interesting is an entry of 17th August, 1651, wherein Johnne Muire is appointed "ruling elder." From its terms, and also from subsequent notices in the book, there would appear little doubt that the phrase "ruling elder" is a statement of an acknowledged fact. Nowadays the Session members are all "ruling elders," but judging by the Govan records it was apparently the custom in these early times for one man to be appointed leader or ruling elder. The notice we refer to conveys this idea. It tells us that Johnne Muire "wes by the Minister and rest of the elders pnt in Sessioune nominat, chosin, and electit as their ruleing elder till the monnethe of October nixt to come And is herby ordainit to attend the Presbitrie at y^r severall meetings in name of the rest." On the 8th of October, 1652, "by vot of sessioune Stiven Rowand and James Murdoche, twa of the said number (of elders), wer chosin as ruleing elders to attend the Prie and Sinod both for ye nixt half yeir qlk they took upon ym to doe." To these ruling elders fell the duty of directing matters for the Session, attending Presbytery meetings, and looking abroad, when necessary, for a minister. From July 10th, 1653, to the 14th of May, 1654, the church of Govan was vacant, and the proceedings anent the choosing of a minister to succeed Mr. Hugh Binning illustrates the various duties delegated to the ruling elders. On the 10th of July a supplication was addressed to the Presbytery for "supplying the Church now vacand the Min^r. being dead." In October 24th, Stevin Rowan and James Murdoch desired the Session to nominate "John Rowand of Marrilands and Adam Gemill ruling elders to voice in presby and Sinod till further." The same day certain elders who had been

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appointed to go down and hear Mr. James Stirling "passing his trialls in pasley presbry," reported favourably, but the Session and heritors desired to hear him before giving him a call to the "Kirke." The following entry on Tuesday, December 6th, 1653, suggests that there was a fair held at that time of the year in Glasgow. Mr. James Stirling had preached in Govan upon that day, but this "was verie unexpected of the people and it *being ye ffair day in Glasgow* and qrin the parosch have their severall distractions from attending sermone," the attendance was small, and he was desired to preach the next Lord's Day before the whole congregation. His personality was apparently pleasing to the congregation assembled, and commissioners were appointed to go to Edinburgh and give him the call. It would seem that Mr. Stirling did not accept, for on April 30th, 1654, "Adam Gemill, Ruleing elder, being present at Session did inform the Session anent one Mr. David Veetch, who was passing his trialls in Biggar, an able young man, qualified, whome the Presbry did nominat to him for the parosche." Having preached, Mr. Veitch received a unanimous call, which was accepted. Rather quaint is the statement regarding this in May, 1654, when "after three severall oyesses at ye most patent door of ye sd church by ye officer (Walter Kidd) intimating the foresaid words," no one appeared to signify their dissent to the call, and Mr. David Veitch became minister of Govan. The same month we are told that "Wm. Gibsone was callit to ye office of beddell," which he accepted.

Sabbath-breakers were not allowed to do as they pleased by the Session, the acts relating to such folks being many. In May, 1651, it is complained that "yr is many who on the sabboth day not onlie stayes betwixt sermons in ye kirkyaird and discourses on idle things and so remembers not what a day it is thow they aucht to hallow the same in another manner bot also goes over the watter in tyme of sermone in ye boat" Similar abuses of the Holy Day are complained of in 1711. The entry regarding this says, quaintly, that "vaiging in ye fields, gazing out of doors or windows unnecessarily" are to be censured by the Session. Again, on February 28th, 1714, the Session,

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being informed of various "ways that some tak of prophaning ye Lord's Day in tyme of Divine worship, qt thro wandring up and down this toun of Govane and other pairts of the parish and flocking together in houses," appointed an elder, a deacon, and the kirk officer to "go through the toun of Govane" and take "inspection of sich as flock together in suspected houses." Gorbals was also included in this latter act, and we are informed "yt these yt collects at ye port in gorbells may observe ye samine with the officer yr accompanying ym for ye forsaid ends."

There is a fine old-world flavour about these acts and recordings of our Session. Although chiefly, and, as is to be expected, local in their feeling, yet at times we are reminded that the larger and more imperial spirit received due recognition in "the gret village called Govane twa myles abune Renfru." Let us take the entry dated 8th of January, 1652, "to intimat anent ane collectioune for ye prisoners," says the marginal note. We receive further enlightenment regarding "ye prisoners" from the minute, which reads, "The samine day Ordanis to intimat ye nixt Lord's Day that yr is ane contributioune to be gathered for ye prisoners at eh^{r} and to desire ye people to inlairge ye fund." "Eh^{r}" is a curious contraction frequently used for Edinburgh, and the prisoners referred to are those taken at the battle of Dunbar. The Govanites were apparently in sympathy with the troops of Leslie, for we find, in July of the same year, "declairet yt yr wes a petitioune com frae ye prisoners at Tinmouth who were taikin at Dunbar and representit to ye prie (Presbytery) for support becaus they were in ane sterving conditioune and all commanders." Apparently officers are meant by the latter phrase. The Govan Session, in excellent spirit, "ordaines yt ane collectioune be yr anent upone Sonday come eight days and intimacne to be maid of it ye nixt Sabbathe to ye effect ye people may provide some considerable thing yr anent."

Kind-hearted and generous were these ancient folks of Govan, and the poor of these days benefited largely thereby. On 27th November, 1651, it was appointed to be intimated the next Sunday that "ye collectioune everie Sabbathe for ye poore ones" was "to be enlarged and

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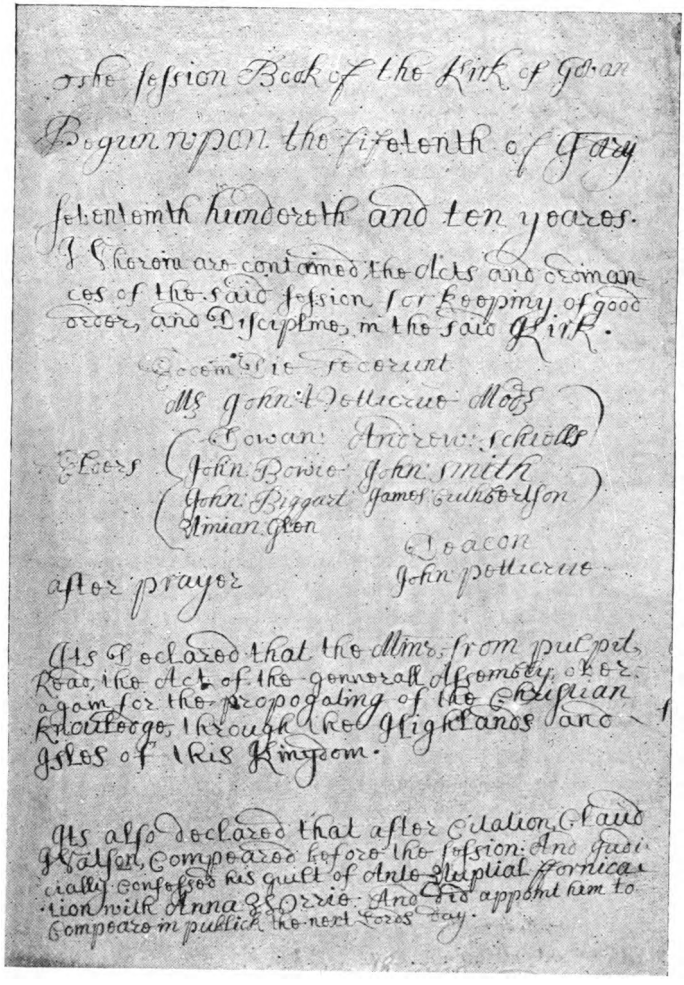

The Session Book of the Kirk of Govan
Begun upon the fifteenth of Jany
seventeenth hundreth and ten yeares.
Wherein are contained the acts and ordinances of the said Session for keeping of good order, and Discipline in the said Kirk.

Present
Mrs John Pollocke Mod.
Elders { Govan Andrew Schiells, John Bowie, John Smith, John Biggart, James Cuthbertson, Armian Glen }
Deacon John Pollocke

after prayer

Its declared that the Minr from pulpit, Read the Act of the generall Assembly 1709 for the propogating of the Christian knowledge through the Highlands and Isles of this Kingdom.

Its also declared that after Citation Gavin Walker, Compeared before the Session: And Judicially confessed his guilt of ante nuptial fornication with Anna Morrie: And did appoint him to Compeare in publick the next Lords day.

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Title-page Second Session Book.

(15th January, 1710.)

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ordaines ye clerke to give up ane note theirof to ye Minstr." We have a reason that will appeal to educationalists, in the minute of 2nd April, 1652, "anent the enlarging of the poores collectioune ye nixt Sabbathe: because yr is some poore Schoolers yt stands in need of books to learn on at ye Schooll." A truly worthy reason, it will be confessed. Sick and infirm folks appear also to have received considerable help from Govan. We gather that on May 7th, 1652, the Session "ordainit that yr salbe ane collectioune gathered thorow ye wholl paroche and givine to ane young woman callit Margret Lochhead who is under the hand of the phisitianes in Glasgow wt a sair disease yt is come to her, and for speedie effectuating heirof appoynts everie elder of ye number in his auwine severall quart^r to collect and ingather the same and bring it to ye sessioune to Tho. Rowand yr, wha is ordainit to receave it all." Applications for relief of a similar character are frequent, and we always find them dealt with in the true spirit of charity, without the slightest ostentation or patronage. Let another of these entries speak for itself. It is a "supplication of Jo^n Bartan diseased," and we read that on the 28th of May, 1654, there "appeared before session a supplication of a poore man John Bartan diseased with ye ston gravell, and not being able to sustain himself nor to find out any way for his cure did intreat the session to take to consideration and commisserat his case and make way for his recoverie by their extending their charitie. The session not being then in capacitie to give a pnt ansr delayed till ye nixt meeting of session," when we are assured the "poore man" was the recipient of a few pounds to help "sustain him."

Some very curious notices in the book remind us of the times when the Turkish Rover was one of the real terrors of the sea. To the early Scottish mariner the Salee pirate was an enemy against whom every provision had to be taken. Before going down to the sea our sailor bade farewell to his parents and wife, and blessed his children, for there might lie before him a life-long exile in the land of the Turk. That the danger was one with which they were tolerably familiar, and which interested the nation as a whole, we glean from

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a minute of January 18th, 1655. The Session herein "appoynted a contribution to be gathered for one Catharine Chambers in Air whose husband is taken by the Turks for his releef." Intimation of this was made to the congregation, who were urged to "enlarge their contribution to ye triple more than ordinarie for yt effect." In October, 1738, there occurs a couple of quaint entries in the kirk treasurer's account book anent the Turkish terror. We read that "to a prince's son in Syria, who had his father taken captive by the Turks, in order to Redeem him," the sum of £1 4s. 0d. was given; and the following month 12s. were granted "to three seamen who were taken by the Turks and Greatly tortured by them, who at lenth maid their escape." A member of the old Govan family of Gibson appears to have followed the profession of mariner about the close of the seventeenth and the early years of the eighteenth century. He was apparently a man of uprightness and great piety. His name is found frequently in the accounts as a donor of funds for the use of the poor, as the annexed extracts, culled from the treasurer's books, show. On October 20th, 1706, we have, "The same day given in to the poor by Andrew Gibsone in thankfulness to God for his safe arrivall to his ain country," the sum of £14 4s. 0d.; on the 18th of August, 1707, "Andrew Gibson going a voyage to see left for the poors use" £3 14s. 0d.; and, apparently returning from the said voyage in October, 1708, "having returned safe from see he gives in testimony of thankfulness" £3 0s. 0d. Pleasant little passages, indeed, are these, and we can figure the stir occasioned in the old village when the adventurer returned from his voyages, bronzed and bearded, and choke-full of strange tales of the other side of the world.

Throughout this old Session volume there are at intervals quaint little entries. These small paragraphs, however, allow us glimpses into the very heart of the Govan life of those days as perhaps no other record extant can do. As we read them we look in imagination upon the old village, and we get into touch with its inhabitants. Though centuries have passed, we feel that the common weaknesses of humanity were then, as now, part and parcel of the daily round. For instance,

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what better example could we wish than is afforded by the succinct lines, dated "2 October, 1651—This day ordaines to intimat ye nixt sabbathe that ye people refrain from sleeping in tyme of sermone on ye Lord's Day." From which we gather that even the Presbyterian austerity supposed to rule conduct at that time occasionally yielded to "the blessed sleep from Heaven," doubtless urged on to it by the ministerial drone. From a notice, in November of the same year, it would seem that the kirk was enlarged at that period, instruction being given to intimate "that the Heritors have their proportion of the building of ye yle in readiness for the collector." Again on "26 Marche, 1652," the Session ordained "Johnne Rowand yr in westend (who tooke upoune him to collect ye severall proportiones in govane toune anent ye yle bigging) to give and delyver to James Crauford yr (qlk wes borrowit be ym from his umqle fayr for advanceing ye sd yle-bigging) the soume of ane hundereth mks Scottis." All traces are lost of this old kirk to which the aisle was added, the last remains of the structure being swept away during the re-building of the church in 1826.

A marginal note, in 1653, informs us that "From ye 6 of Marche till ye 5 of May yr wes no meiting in Session becaus ye minstr wes seike and not weel." The kirk officer, Walter Kid, appears on the stage in October 13th, 1653, when "the samine day was given to him to buy for the knock oile and candles 4s. 6d." The charitable spirit of the old Govanites is displayed again on July 4th, 1656, when "it is ordained yt Rot Mure, Elder, should buy a byble to a poore damsell named Bessie Shiels." In the treasurer's book for February, 1703, there is 4s. given "to Katherine Snodgrass to by a sam book."

Considerable interest attaches to the notice in the Session's book for October 9th, 1715—"There being no sermon here ye last Lord's Day ye Minir being then at the Camp at Stirling, could be no Session kept: The qlk day the Minir read publickly from the pulpit ane Admonition sett out by ye Synod of Glasgow and Air shewing ye danger that this whole land is in by reason of ye Insurrection of an Antichristian Malignant party in the North of this Kingdom setting up for the

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pretender and that to the overturning of our Constitution both in Church and State." From certain entries which appear in the Weavers' Society minutes it seems that a band of Govanites took part in the battle of Sheriffmuir (to which the above Session extract refers) under one of the Rowans of Teucharhill. The flag carried by the Govan Volunteers at that engagement is still preserved by the Weavers.

Let us dip for a little into the pages of this old account book of the kirk. A quaint little book to me it is in appearance, but not nearly so quaint as the contents. We shall glance at these for a moment and cull a page or two. They shall speak for themselves. Beginning, then, with the year 1704 :—

Ane account of the mony gathered at the Kirk of Govan at the Comunion on August 13, 1704	184	3	6
1704 : Nov : 21			
Coll at the Shiells on a week day	00	15	00
October 7th 1705			
No collectioune the Minister preached in the new Kirk of Glasgow			
Nov 25 1705			
No coll : the minister being sick			
Decr 1			
Received from Wm. J. his fee for the sin of fornicane with Martha B.	05	16	00
May 1704			
to John M'Alaster's son who has his leg broken to pay the chirurgion	01	06	00
It : for mending the lock in Pollk loft ...	00	04	00
to Isobell M'lachlane for a batter to her arm being strainyed ..	00	04	00
to the Presbetrie Clark from Lambas 1703 to May 1	02	05	00
to Rt Blair for Glass to the church windows	01	06	08
June 1704			
to stranger one noble ..	00	04	00
July			
It : for ane Extract of the comisions of ye Generall Assemblyes act for intimating Mr Jo : Hepbran's suspensione	00	06	00
Feb : 1706			
Receaved from the Minister of the Marrag Mony...	18	10	00
June 16			
No coll : the Minister was at Edinburgh			
July 14 being ye comunion Sabath the collection at the cominion all the four days	154	19	6
There was also delevered to me of the first cominion mony ane hundred pounds Scots. So the whole sume is counted by the Session to be nine hundred sixteen pound twelv shillin and that upon the 30 day of Jully 1706			

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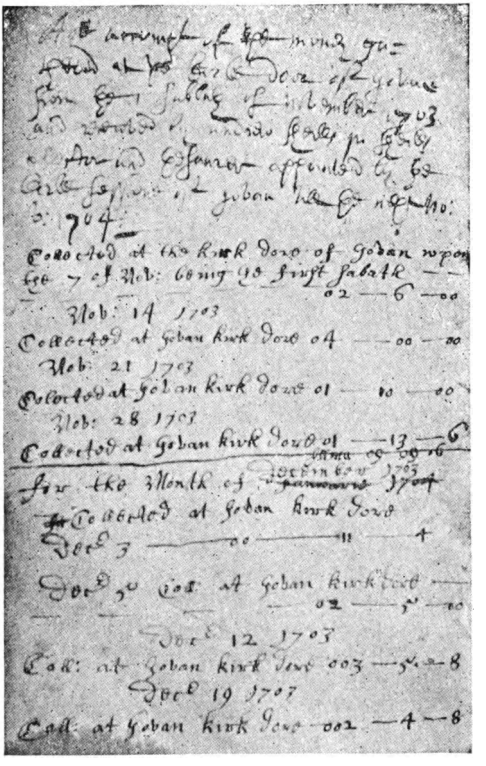

Page from Old Kirk Account Book, 1703.

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It: to Mr Daivd Scot and jo G Montgomrie wt yr famillies yt hed ther house brunt wt an accidentall fire at Old Meldrume ...	00	06	00	August to Thomas Orr for a qrtr wage for his being clark to ye presbetrie from beltan to Lambas	00	15	00
to James Dassone a suferer by King James armie at Kili Krankie	00	04	00	for ane wallat to hold ye tokens at ye cominion	00	10	00
to officers of presbetrie	00	02	00	to John Murdock for puting up and taking doun ye tables ...	00	13	00

Quaint to a degree, it will be confessed, are the foregoing extracts, and affording Govanites a unique glance of the lives of their forefathers. We shall take some more of these pages in the book and see what they have to tell us further. On May, 1706, we find a sum of 3s. given "to one John Robertson: Inglishman shipwrecked by sess: order 3s."; and also "to ane broken seaman" 2s. Among "the mony distribut at the Comunion, Jully 14, 1706," there are:

to the Beggers	05	16	00
for Nails and a Lock	00	14	00
for a Dail	00	13	04
to Jas. Andersone for putting up ye tables ...	00	20	00
for 3 Wallates	00	09	00
to Partick to ther poor	11	10	00
to Meikle Govan	17	10	00
to Haggs, Titwood and Shiells	04	00	00
to ye Gorball Elders to their poor	23	10	00

Andrew Shiells, who was treasurer for the kirk about that period, was discharged of his intromissions at a meeting of Session on 5th December, 1707. He gave in his account of charge and discharge for the period from November, 1703, to November, 1707. The charge amounted to £1175 os. 6d., and the discharge to £650 16s. 6d., which left £524 4s. od. For this sum he gave his bond to the Session, the formal discharge being signed by David Thom, clerk to that body.

In 1724 James Baird was treasurer. The funds for the poor collected at the kirk door were increased by donations, fines, consignations, and the annual rents (or interest) of the Session's funds lent out on bond, usually at 5 per cent. interest. During the year, from November, 1703, to November, 1704, there was

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collected at the kirk door in Govan £169 3s. 2d., and during the Sacrament in August £184 3s. 6d., giving the handsome total of £353 6s. 8d. (Scots).

Some very curious entries are to be found from 1720 to 1740. They reveal a paternal method of dealing with the parishioners which is pleasant to read of in the present age. Not only did the Session assist their own folks, but anyone in sore distress had the right to apply for relief, and generally got the same. The notices will speak for themselves. On February, 1720, "to a quair of paper for public uses, 00 06 00"; in May of the same year, "to John Arbuckle in Gorbells to help to buy a horse, he being very poor, 02 08 00"; following this there is, "for 2 sand-glasses, one to the Kirk and another to the tent, 00 18 00." John Cumming, in Govan, apparently was not prospering so well as he might, for in December he receives £07 00 00 "to pay his house maill for a yeare, he not able to pay the same." Suggestive of "better days" is the entry of March, 1722, "to one in gentleman's habit by ye recommendation of the minrs of Glasgow, 01 04 00." The following month there is, "to one James Will being recommended by the Minr of Baldarnock as a very honest man and having sustained a great loss of his cattel by a wood dog and having eight children." The sum of £01 10 00 is given to Will and his eight children. We wonder what sort of animal the "wood dog"* might be? In all probability a wolf is here referred to, these animals at one period being found all over Scotland. In February, 1739, there is £00 18 00, "to putting a little chess window glass in the Kirk be east the pulpit in the Queer."

There is a notice in February, 1720, which brings to mind the curfew and the knell of parting day. £02 00 00 is given "to Wull (Ogloch) for ringing the ten hour bell from Lambass 1719 to Candlemess 1720"; and again in November of the same year we find, "to two pound of candle to lett Wull Ogloch see to ring the ten hour bell, 00 09 00." We have in these two notices a remembrance of the ringing of the curfew in old Govan village. The custom was abolished about

* It may also mean "wode," Scottice "mad," dog. "Wod, wode, wud," Ingram's Scotch Dictionary.

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the close of the eighteenth century in Govan, but another very ancient local custom, viz., the ringing of the kirk bell as the people were dispersing after sermon, was kept up to within 40 years ago. The origin of the bell-ringing at the close of the service was to warn the ferryman to get his boat ready to transport the Partick folks across the water. This latter custom was reminiscent of the time when the Parish Kirk was the only religious establishment in the parish, and, as such, folks came from Partick, Gorbals, and Sheills to worship in it on the Sunday. "Wull Ogloch," the church officer, was paid £4 yearly for ringing the curfew, which, in Govan, was evidently rung at ten in the evening. He had in addition £5 per annum for his other duties.

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CHAPTER VII.

VILLAGE TRADITIONS—THE GUIDMAN O' BALLENGEICH—THE FALL OF THE YEAR 1529—A TALE OF LOVE—DAVY LINN OF PARTICK—CURATE AND RECTOR.

The preceding chapters inform us that King James the Sixth took a somewhat kindly interest in the fortunes of the "gret village" of Govan and its kirk. This feeling towards the locality was doubtless inherited, his father, the pawky King Jamie, better known to the romantic school as The Guidman o' Ballengeich, having, according to a local tradition, passed a blythesome nicht in the village inn—unquestionably the "Ferrie Bot" aforementioned. Mellow, indeed, is the tale which tradition* has handed down to us of that royal junketing. 'Tis also retailed that the genial "Guidman" paid more than one visit to Govan. The story sayeth not the reason altogether, but it has it that King Jamie stayed one night at least in the manse.† In the morning, so goes the tradition, accompanied by the rector, he took a hearty dram—of the "Ferrie Bot" landlord's celebrated brewing—at the ferry hostelry, afterwards spending an hour or two fishing for the lordly salmon. The "Guidman" showed himself to be as good a fisher as he was a king, and the landlord's coble returned to the ferry stage full of the silvery denizen of the Clyde. Another dram—the King was a Bohemian—and doubtless a crack with mine host, what time the meal of kippered salmon was being prepared by the rector's household, whetted the edge of the kingly appetite. Justice was done by the royal visitor to the meal, and

* Local tradition says that Queen Mary had stables in Govan. (See Chapter IV.)

† As we have already pointed out, Govan Manse was at this period in Glasgow. The tradition probably refers to the house in the village at which the rector stayed when on a visit to his flock.

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a compliment and a kiss to the buxom lass who prepared the salmon, a hansel to the household, and a whisper of favours to come to the rector, left an impression of the virtues of royalty which still lingers—faintly, we must confess—even unto these times. So runneth this old tradition, and now to the other.

'Tis the better of the two in many ways. Principally as supplying more detail and also as showing that underlying these kingly vagaries and fancies of the gentle Jamie, there ran a deeper and more earnest vein, befitting the occupant of the ancient and honoured throne of Scotland.

It was a raw, wet, and cold night in the fall of the year 1529. On this particular evening Mr. Walter Gibson, curate of Govan, and Mr. John Craig, schoolmaster thereof, were seated in a corner of the snug kitchen of the "Ferrie Bot." A peep through the blazing windows into this cheerful apartment proved tempting indeed to the wayfarer who chanced to be out in such weather. The walls were white as snow; the floor strewed with bright yellow sand; immense rows of shining pewter plates and jugs glittered on the rack; and a rousing fire of logs roared and crackled in the old-fashioned chimney. In the ingle neuk sat the two friends; before them was a small fir table, and on this table stood a fat, sleek pewter measure of ale. Three horn tumblers—one for the landlord—filled with mine host's double ale completed the cosiness of, and lent satisfaction to, the occupants of the apartment. Having each turned off a couple of horns of the good home-brewed, conversation became lively. An announcement that the ferry-boat was bringing over a passenger put a stop to gossip, speculation being excited as to the guest.

"Wha can it be?" said mine host. "Some o' oor ain folk, I fancy. It'll be Jamie Dinwoodie frae Glasgow, I'll wad a groat. He's cam' roun' by Partick instead o' comin' doun the water-side."

"The deil o' him is't, at ony rate, landlord," said the schoolmaster. Jamie's b'n hame twa 'oors since, and he's as fou's a fiddler."

Further speculation was interrupted by the entrance of the stranger, and it was with some disappointment the party found that, to judge by his appearance, he

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was not worth speculating about. He was meanly dressed, suggesting, indeed, a superior sort of mendicant. On his entrance, the stranger, perceiving the respectable quality of the guests assembled in the kitchen, doffed his old broad blue bonnet, and apologised for intruding on the "honourable company."

"Nae apology necessary, freend," said the curate, rising from his seat to allow the poor traveller, who was dripping with wet, to approach nearer the fire. "This is a public hotel, and if ye can birl your bawbee ye've as guid a richt tae accommodation as the best in the lan'."

"Thanks to ye, honourable sir," said the stranger. "I wish every ane were o' your way o' thinking; but I find this auld coat and clouted shoon nae great recommendations tae civility onywhere."

"Tak' a moothfu' o' this in the meantime, honest man," said the curate, handing him his own goblet, "for ye seem baith wat and weary."

In all this conversation the schoolmaster took no part, but maintained a haughty distance; his pride evidently hurt by the intrusion into his society of a person of such questionable condition — a feeling which he indicated by observing a dignified silence. The displeasure of the dominie, however, did not deter the kind-hearted curate from prosecuting his conversation with the stranger, who eventually proved to be an intelligent and entertaining person. The nicht sped on wi' sang and laughter, and the curate became confidential with his quondam acquaintance. He told him it would be long before his merits would bring promotion.

"The King," he said, "has ower mony greedy gleds to feed for the like o' me to hae a chance. Na, na, freend—

> 'Curate o' Govan I was born to be,
> An' Curate o' Govan I'm destined to dee.'"

"Ha, ha," exclaimed the stranger, laughing, "a bit of a poet, curate? But, pray, how long have you been curate of this parish?"

"Nine years come Martinmas."

"And no prospect of advancement yet?"

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"Just as muckle as ye wad see through a whunstane, an' ye ken it taks gey sherp een tae see onything through that."

"Nae doot," replied the stranger, "but the King, though he canna see through a whunstane further than ither folk, has pretty sharp eyes, and ears too, and baith sees and hears things that every ane is not aware of. Isn't the rectorship o' Govan vacant just now?"

"Deed is't, freend," said the curate, "but its ower canny a seat to be lang withoot a sitter."

At this moment the conversation was directed into another channel by the information that a boat-load of passengers had just landed at the ferry, and were making their way to the inn. On entering the kitchen, they were found to be three men and two women. The former were apparently farmers—two of them elderly men, and one a young, loutish-looking fellow of about two and twenty. The women were mother and daughter—the latter a beautiful girl of about eighteen or twenty. All were apparently known to the curate, schoolmaster, and landlord, and a general shaking of hands greeted the party.

"How are ye, curate?" "How are ye, Clayslaps?"* "Glad to see you, Mr. Craig." "As glad to see you, Jordanhill."

"And hoo are ye, Meenie, my bonny dear?" said the curate, turning towards the daughter; "and hoo," he added with a smirk, "is Davy Linn o' Partick?"

Meenie made no reply to the worthy curate's half-jocular remarks. Her heart was sad, and heart-withering was the errand which had brought the party to Govan—for of the men, one was her father, the other her uncle, and the third the husband about to be forced upon her by her parents.

"She's a camstairy cutty," said her father, Adam

* Clayslaps was the name by which the land lying between the Kelvin and the Clyde was formerly known. Many years ago a farm-house was located thereon, and doubtless the party mentioned above took his name as occupant, according to the old Scotch custom, from that property. Part of an ancient loan, Clayslaps Road is still to be seen connecting Dumbarton Road with Sauchiehall Street near the Art Galleries. See map in following chapter, "Govan District in 1773."

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Ritchie of Clayslaps, "and most undutifu' no' to submit to the wishes o' her parents wi' a better grace."

"Indeed, ay, curate," chimed in Meenie's mother, "ye ken Davy o' Partick, that was rinnin after Meenie, hasna a plack in his purse, nor hoose nor ha'; and were we gaun tae throw awa oor lassie, wi fifty merks o' tocher in her pouch, on a penniless chiel like that? Na, my certy—we're just gaun tae gie her tae the young Laird o' Goupinsfou there, wha can lay doun plack for plack wi' her, and has a bien hoose to tak' her to, forbye."

The tender-hearted churchman asked Meenie if she were here to be married of her own free will and accord. The poor girl made no reply, when her father sternly called on her to answer. Thus urged, she uttered a scarcely audible affirmative.

"Then, since it is so, Meenie," said the curate, "I may not decline to effect the union. Do you desire, Clayslaps, that the ceremony should be immediately performed?"

"As sune's ye like, curate," replied the latter.

The landlord withdrew to prepare an apartment for the ceremony, and just then the curate's new friend touched him on the elbow and whispered, "Delay the ceremony as long as you can. The poor girl, you see, is about to be sacrificed. Perhaps I can prevent it."

The curate nodded assent, although he could not conceive how such a very humble personage should have the power to stay an event of this kind. Still, the request was in accordance with his own feelings, and he resolved to do what he could to comply with it.

Having made the communication, the stranger hurriedly left the apartment. Whither and for what purpose we shall ascertain by following him.

On leaving the house, he hastened to the ferryman's hut at the water-side. Calling the man out, and slipping a gold Jacobus into his hand, the stranger said, "Across the water with you and up to Partick as fast as if Auld Nick were at your heels. Tell Davy Linn to come here directly, if he would not lose Meenie Ritchie for ever."

"Feth, that'll mak' him rin," said the man, who knew of Davy's attachment to Meenie.

"And stay, sir," continued the stranger, "take this"

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—producing a ring—"and go to the Bishop's Castle,* on the Kelvin, and put this into the hands of Sir John Elphingstoun,† who is residing there at present. Tell him the person who sent it desires to see him immediately."

Meanwhile the curate, with anecdote and story, was endeavouring to delay matters, but, finally, an hour having nearly passed, was compelled by the father of Meenie to discharge his duty. He had just commenced the service, when the stranger pushed into the apartment occupied by the marriage party.

"May I ask, Clayslaps," he said, "if your objection to your daughter's having the man of her choice is his want of fortune?"

Clayslaps, looking at the querist with extreme surprise, answered, "I dinna see what richt, freen', ye hae to put me such questions, but, nevertheless, I'll answer't. It is, and a guid and sufficient ane, it'll be allo'ed, I think."

"Now, friend," said the stranger, "if Davy Linn o' Partick could produce two merks for her one, what would you have to say to having him for a son-in-law?"

"Why," said the bride's father, "that wad certainly hae altered the case, but young Goupinsfou has lands as weel as siller."

"Suppose Davy could show he was laird o' a hundred acres of land within half a dozen miles o' Partick, what would you say then, guidman?"

"Indeed, man," interrupted Meenie's mother, "it wad hae been different, but Davy has naething and Goupinsfou has plenty. That maks a differ—but, my faith, an unco differ it is."

"Suppose," said the stranger, "I pay down a hundred merks on Davy Linn's account, and put him in

* The Bishop's Castle stood on the ground now occupied as a shipbuilding yard by Messrs. Henderson. Although this castle, the ruins of which were to be seen so late as 1828, was built in 1611 by George Hutcheson, there is little doubt that he built his residence on the site of the Bishop's Castle. The bishops of Glasgow had a castle at Partick as early as 1277. See illustration showing castle on page 15.

† The noble family of Elphinstone owned land in Brygend and Gorbals. The last of them, Sir George Elphinstone of Blythswood, is said to have died in great poverty in his own fortalice early in the seventeenth century. Diocesan Registers, vol. i., p. 82.

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possession, as a free gift, of a hundred acres of land, will you give him your daughter?"

"Ye'll pey doon a hunner merks tae Davy Linn," exclaimed Clayslaps, in utter amazement, glancing at the threadbare coat, clouted shoon, and darned hose of the man of promises, "and whaur the deil are ye tae get them?"

Turning to the landlord, he asked, "Please tell Sir John Elphingstoun, whom I presume is to be found in the next room, to step this way a moment."

To the amazement of all, Sir John appeared, accompanied by Davy Linn.

Having explained the promise he had made to Clayslaps, the stranger said, "Now, Sir John, will you become security to Clayslaps for the fulfilment of the promise?"

"Most assuredly," said Sir John, smiling; "let me have pen, ink, and paper, and I will give him a written obligation to that effect."

Sir John then went up to Goupinsfou and whispered in his ear, "I say, laird, you've long had an eye to the bit holm on the Kelvin below the Garroch Mill?"*

"It's a bonny spot," interrupted Goupinsfou.

"Well," was the reply, "it shall be yours if you give up all claim to the hand o' Meenie Ritchie."

"Dune," exclaimed the abominably mean and selfish young laird, wisely calculating that he could readily find another wife, but might not so readily get another offer of the piece of land he so much coveted.

Turning to the party, Sir John informed them that their worthy friend, the Laird of Goupinsfou, out of consideration for the feelings of Meenie Ritchie, had resigned all claims to her hand.

"That's sae far guid," said Clayslaps, "but it looks ——."

"Toots, guidman," interposed his wife, "the thing's a' richt aneugh. Davie's a discreet, decent, well-doin' lad that will mak, I'm sure, a guid husband to Meenie, sae jist lat them e'en gang thegither."

Little remains to be told. The curate lost no time in making Davy Linn and Meenie Ritchie man and

* In October, 1529, "John Drew is rentalit in 13s. 4d. land in the Garroch."

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wife. When the ceremony was completed the stranger said, "If there be a fiddler or piper in all Govan wha will play to us for love or money let him be brought here instantly."

The desired musician was procured. The room was cleared, creature comforts were ordered in, in unsparing abundance, and, sayeth the tradition, such a night of mirth and fun ensued as has not been seen since in Govan. The curate, 'twixt double ale and good nature, danced and frisked about with an ardour that spoke volumes for his vigour; Sir John conducted himself with no less animation; but neither had the smallest chance with the stranger in the darned hose. He kept the floor all night, whooping and hallooing in a most spirited manner; he danced fully half the time with the bride, and the rest with her mother, the guidwife o' Clayslaps, relieved occasionally by a turn with some of the buxom maidens of the village, whom the landlord had hurriedly brought together, on the principle of "the more the merrier."

A week after the occurrence of these events, the worthy curate of Govan was surprised one day by receiving a letter from the Archbishop of Glasgow.

"What's wrang noo," said the curate to himself; "my dismissal, I suppose, for the irregularity o' my conduct the ither nicht in the inn?"

It was not exactly so. The letter ran:—

"At the recommendation of a high personage, I intend appointing you to the vacant rectorship of Govan. You will therefore repair immediately to me, either at my palace at Glasgow or my castle at Partick, that I may confer with you further on the subject.

"DUNBAR, A.B. of G."

"Whe-e-e-ou!" ejaculated the curate, when he had read the very pleasant document, "I smell a rat. 'Od, but it was stupid o' me no to think o't before. I'm sure I micht hae kent him, for I've seen him twa or three times. But, then, he was in a green coat o' the finest claith, an' a chain o' gowd, worth five hundred merks if it was worth a bodle, round his neck. Still I ought to hae kent King Jamie, for a' his clouted shoon

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and darned hose. But the cat's oot o' the pock, an', my word, a bonny beast it is."

Thus ends our simple tale. Who, then, was the stranger in the darned hose? Why, none other than the good King James V. of Scotland, whose perigrinations, tradition further tells us, brought him oft again to spend a merry nicht with the honest Rector of Govan. If ye be inclined to cast doubts upon the foregoing tale, gentle reader, hie ye down the waterside to the Ferry of Govan. There will you find, rearing its honest old face o'er the busy modern slip, the identical house which, in the times we told ye of, welcomed all wayfarers who passed from Partick to Govan. The thatch which covers its ancient head has been changed many a time and oft since it sheltered our King Jamie, but the walls still stand sturdy and firm as in days of yore. Ye may enter by the same doorway as once admitted one of the gallant Stewart race, a king of Scotland, and, gin ye wish, ye may sit in the same cosy apartment once honoured by his presence. Gaze reverently, then, that is if ye be Scottish, at the old weather-beaten theekit house by the ferry; and when ye pass that way raise your cap to the middle house of that old group, for 'twas within its grey walls that one of your kings, a scion, and a noble one too, of the race of Royal Stewarts, showed that in his veins ran the blood of a true and honest man, lending virtues even unto the blue blood of a king.

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CHAPTER VIII.

QUHYTINCHE MEIDOW—THE BURGESS OF AYR—"SHALLOW OF GOVAN"—THE OLD COAL FIELDS—SHIPS AT GLASGOW IN 1597—THE SHERIFFMUIR FLAG — PROMINENT GOVAN FAMILIES.

During the sixteenth century and earlier the Clyde appears to have been a very shallow stream, and it is conjectured, upon reasonable grounds, that in these old days the river was much broader, nearly twice in fact, than it is to-day.* Evidence of this is found in Blaen's map, published in 1654, wherein, opposite Govan ferry-houses, there lies a large island—the Water Inch—showing a very broad stream at that point. That "island" subsequently became joined to the north bank, and may now be identified as the strip of land occupied as a shipbuilding yard by the Messrs. Henderson. The place-name, Meadowside, is pleasantly suggestive of a green low-lying stretch of ground, which at one period it was. But though a broad stream, and it must have been very broad indeed about Govan and Whiteinch —or "Quhytinche Meidow," as the lands of that district are called in a memorandum of 1591 by Captain Thomas Crawford of Jordanhill, who got a grant of Partick Mill for his services in capturing Dumbarton Castle, a feat in the performing of which Captain Crawford displayed great gallantry—as the islands prove, it was also a shallow stream. We may fancy its clear, sparkling water meandering over a pebbly bed with sluggish movement, at times, no doubt, seeming to stop altogether. Laddies would guddle for trout at the Govan ford then. Shallow, very shallow, it certainly

* There are pretty clear indications from history that the river at and below Glasgow was deeper in the twelfth century than it was in later times. The great Somerled, in 1164, took a fleet of 160 ships up to Renfrew, and the depth must have been respectable to allow of this being done even with these early craft.

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was at Govan in 1507, as an agreement in the Glasgow Protocols tell us. It is a quaintly interesting document, and speaks to us in mellow tones of days now long vanished.

The agreement is dated 14th May, 1507, and is between Archbishop Blacader of Glasgow and "Thomas Tayt, burgess of Air" (Ayr). By this document the burgess contracts to sell to the prelate "twelve fuderis (six score stone—skene) of lead," at the price of eighteen pounds Scots for each "fuder" (28½ lbs), under certain conditions as to delivery. The lead was probably designed for the south transept of the Cathedral, which the Archbishop began but did not live to complete. The terms of the option given to "Thomas Tayt," the lead merchant of "Air," was to deliver, either at the burgh of Renfrew or at *the shallow of Govan (vadum de Govan)*, if his ship could conveniently be brought up to the latter place. This most interesting instrument informs us, further, that the half of these twelve fuderis "the said Thomas was to deliver before the feast of Michaelmas following, and the other half before Easter following. "Nevertheless," it continues, "if the said Archbishop, by his letters, or otherwise, warned the said Thomas or Patrick Culquhoun of Glen, in his name, within ten days of the feast of *Corpus Christi* following, that he did not wish to have, or to intromit with, the said lead, then the contract should be, *ipso facto*, null and void. Done in the palace of the said Archbishop, 14th May, 1507."*

Thomas Tayt appears to have been a man of substance, owning property not only in the town of "Air" but also in the burgh of Glasgow. The following year to the foregoing contract, on the 9th of May, 1508, we find him appearing in the burgh court against Sir John Alanson, the "delinquent" ("alleged," according to an earlier instrument) chaplain of Saint Conval and Ninian in Renfrew, for leading a process of law against a house in the High Street of Glasgow, which he, the chaplain, said belonged to "a John Anderson," concealing the fact that the house belonged to our Thomas Tait.

Subsequent notices in the Glasgow Burgh Records

* Diocesan Registers, vol. i.

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The Clyde at Govan Ferry, 1840.
(Showing the old Silk Mill and the old Point House.)

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suggest that as the years passed a process of deepening (primitive it would undoubtedly be) took place at Govan, and that, in fact, the village attained the dignity of possessing a quay. Certainly in the old view of Govan reproduced a diminutive "quay" is shown, and although the picture in question was sketched long after the date of the "complaint" referred to further on, that "quay" may have been the lineal descendant, if not the actual quay, at which Patrick Bryce sought to unload his coals in 1660. A quay is not specially mentioned in the document, but we may assume that the unloading of "coalls" warranted the existence of such a convenience. On the other hand, it is quite possible that the Clyde may have been in the same condition as in 1507, when the "Air" lead merchant unloaded his cargo at "the shallow of Govan," which means that for the long period of 153 years no change had taken place on Govan's river frontage! I think we may assume there was a "quay"; that the energetic spirit of the old villagers insisted upon such a convenience to trade. So to our "complaint."

On the 26th of May, 1660, Patrick Bryce, tacksman of the "coal heugh" in Gorbals, complained to the magistrates of Glasgow that he could not get his coals loaded at the Broomielaw owing to a scarcity of water. He had been obliged to crave license to lead them through the lands of Sir George Maxwell of Nether Pollok for the purpose of loading them "neare to Meikle Govane." The craft which navigated the Clyde in these days must have been very diminutive and of shallow build. There was no water to float anything larger than a good-sized canoe. Exactly one hundred years after "Patrick Bryce's complaint," in 1770, the depth at low water off Pointhouse was 1 foot 6 inches, and at high tide 3 feet! The low-water depth at Pointhouse is now 20 feet! This "scarsitie of water" would appear to have occasioned several such requests from Patrick Bryce, tacksman, and finally Sir George Maxwell declined to continue his permission, fearing that a right-of-way might be established to Meikle Govan. On the application of Bryce, the magistrates and Council of Glasgow, on 26th May, 1660, undertook that neither they nor their tacksmen "could or should clame any

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right or priviledge heirafter but what the said Sir George wold grant of his awine guid will as he has done formerly if necessity require the same."

Our tacksman, Patrick Bryce, figures very prominently in those times. He was a weaver, and apparently ambitious. On the 24th of March, 1655, along with James Andersonne, he undertook "the wining againe of the (Govan) muir heughe." The Council, "being most willing to entertein the same for the guid of the citie and haill inhabitants thairof," agreed to disburse 2000 merks Scots (£111 2s. 2d. sterling) for advancement of the work, and to settle a contract on these terms:—"The saids Patrik Bryce and James Andersoune ar to be obleist to keipe the work on futt threttein yeiris and to have the first yeir frie, but (without) payment of any dewtie, and to pay in yeirlie to the towne for ilk yeir thairafter 600 merks (£33 6s. 8d. sterling), and at nae tyme to exceid four schillings (4d. sterling) for the pryce of the hutche of coallis, and to mak the hutche of the quantitie of nyne gallowns, and they are to be bound onlie for aucht hewaris and ar to employ nae mae." Six years after this—1666—coal was becoming "verie scant and dear" at some of the Glasgow coal-pits, "so that the hutch bought of befor on the hill for four shillings is now bought for no les than sex shillings." On the 17th of March the Town Council, having heard complaints regarding "the coall hewes about the toune, quhilk maks ane great outcry among the inhabitantis, and mainlie the poor, and knowing the same to be most trew, and being informed that coalles may be win and gottin in ther awin land in Gorballes," entered into a contract with Patrick Bryce for working the coal, giving him 1000 merks to set down "twa shankis presentlie."

The coal-fields in "Gorballes" were part of the "Govan Collieries." From a remote period coals have been worked on the lands of Govan, and the collieries formed part of the valuable mines known by the name of the Glasgow Coal Fields.* Seams of coal prevail throughout the Gorbals, and there can be little doubt that at least

*The earliest mention of a coal-work in Scotland occurs in one of the Dunfermline charters in 1291. "Scotland in the Middle Ages."

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the more accessible seams had been worked long before 1650. In Partick, also, coals were extensively worked, and indeed some parts of the burgh are completely honeycombed with old workings. So late as the year 1839 a pit was sunk at Bellahouston to the depth of 19½ fathoms. In this latter pit the coal that was raised was only 19 inches thick, but 8 inches of that were parrot or cannel coal, which sold at a high price for the purpose of being converted into gas. The dip was to the east and south-east. At Jordanhill and Gartnavel, in a depth of not more than 50 fathoms from the surface, there exist no fewer than sixteen beds of coal, which vary in thickness from 3 inches to 2 feet. Some of those which have been worked contain gas-coal of excellent quality, as well as very good household coal. There was also a pit going in recent times near to what is now Ibrox Station, and another a little to the south-west. In both cases these were latterly filled up, but the "bings" remain by which we can identify the site of the workings to this day. On Drumoyne lands there were a couple of pits, but the sites of both are now undistinguishable from the surrounding country. One of them occupied the ground upon which Barnwell Terrace is built, and the other stood near the old farmhouse.

The modern pleasant residential quarter known as Craigton is largely built on the top of the old workings of these pits, but the shallowness of the mine roadways underneath the ground practically obviates all danger of a "cave-in."*

Up till the middle of the eighteenth century some of the pits were going, although the majority had "closed down" about 1816. In that year a committee on landed property was authorised to take the necessary measures for having the old coal-pits "either filled up or at least enclosed in a sufficient manner, so as to prevent danger to the lieges." The workings were to some slight extent carried on after this, but all have now for a long time been abandoned. In the earliest records of the Govan Weavers' Society, about 1756, a great number of those who became members of this guild are described in the

* Between Craigton and the burgh destructor, the remains of old coal-pits are still to be seen.

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minute books as "coal hewers," and we find such entries for many years subsequent to the one mentioned.

In connection with the aforesaid complaint of Patrick Bryce's anent "scarsitie of water" in 1660 at the Broomielaw, it will be of interest to a shipbuilding community such as Govan to learn the class of vessels frequenting the port of Glasgow about that period. On 28th April and 2nd and 22nd May, 1597, reference is made in the Council Records (Glasgow) to the following list of ships at Glasgow as engaged in the wine trade with regard to their payment of impost :—

	TONS.
The "James," of Glasgow, belonging to James Temple	23
The "Diana," of Pittenweem	60
The "Grace of God," of Glasgow	21½
The "William," of Aberdeen	38
The "Pelican," of Glasgow	50
The "Lyon," of Glasgow	43
The "Marie Gawane," of Glasgow	50
The "Phœnix," of Dundee	65
The "Marie and John," of Pittenweem	48
The "Antelope," of Glasgow	92

Of these vessels, six, with the modest aggregate tonnage of 279 tons, appear to have belonged to Glasgow, and all of them were employed in the import of "howtopos" (haultpoyis) wine, with the exception of one which is represented as carrying "Byone" wine. The largest of these vessels, the "Antelope," of Glasgow, registers 92 tons, and doubtless was in her day reckoned a stately craft. It is difficult, however, to believe that it was in such cockle-shells the mariners of old were wont to wash about the ocean. Imagine tumbling through "the bay" when a nor'wester was at its height, on board, say, the "Grace of God," of Glasgow, twenty-one and a half tons! A list such as the above enables one to mentally grasp the magnitude of the vast gulf separating the vessels of to-day from these brave little craft, aboard which men went down to the sea in the years of the sixteenth century.

The good folks of Govan are described as being, in the early part of the eighteenth century, a simple, God-fearing rural people. Many of them owned the ground

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they cultivated—peasant proprietors. The only handicraftsmen, besides the fishermen, would be the indispensable shoemaker and tailor, the wright and smith; while the goodwives spun the wool for the household clothing, to be woven into coarse "home-spun" by the weaver, who, with his primitive hand-loom, had been long settled in the district. Still, the villagers, despite their "sleppy hollow" existence, apparently took a keen interest in the great questions of the day. We find that when the first Rebellion broke out, in 1715, the heritors and inhabitants of Govan raised a corps of volunteers to aid the Government in quelling the insurrection.* John Rowan of Teucherhill was ensign, and the old flag carried by this little band of loyal Govanites is still preserved by the Govan Weavers' Society. It is known as "The Sheriffmuir Flag," and was presented to the Society by a descendant of the Ensign Rowan referred to. Whether or not the Govan company of volunteers duly maintained the honour of the parish in that unfortunate engagement does not clearly appear. We may presume that they did. They at least managed to retain possession of their colours. The standard was, in days now past, regularly exhibited at the yearly election of the deacon of the society, but latterly it became so tattered that the process of unfurling endangered its existence, so it is now kept under lock and key. Old weavers remember that, besides an inscription in Latin, now forgotten, there appeared on the cloth the words, "For God, King, and Covenant," an inscription which hints at an even earlier experience of active warfare than Sheriffmuir.

These Rowans were a virile race. For considerably over a century, representatives of the name assumed a leading place in all local affairs, and indeed, for that period, say from 1700 to 1800, they were among the most authoritative people in the district. We find them mentioned again and again in the old records of Govan, and in the original charter, still extant, of the Govan Weavers' Society, no fewer than five persons of the family of Rowan affixed their signatures. This was

* The Rev. Mr. Coatts, parish minister of Govan, was chaplain to the King's troops during the Rebellion in 1715.

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in 1756. Long before that the race had spread over the district. One of the earliest entries in the Diocesan Registers of Glasgow tells us that on the 13th of August, 1511, "Johannes alane, rentalizatur in vj s. iij d. terrarum de Gwuan, vacantibus per decessum Agnetis Rowan sue matris." Again, on the last of January, 1520, "Jhone Rolland, youngar, is rantelit in vi s. iij d. land of Gwuane." Rolland was the original form of the old family name. Scions of this ancient race were resident in the parish, indeed, within the confines of the burgh till at least a dozen years ago. The last mansion-house occupied by a Rowan in Govan was that of Holmfauldhead,* on the lands of which estate a great part of the pleasant residential suburb of Linthouse or South Govan is built. The house, a beautiful and noble family residence,† was only taken down six years since, and the name Holmfauldhead now lends a distinction to several streets in the vicinity.

Other prominent Govan families whose names appear frequently in the Rental Book about the same period are the Maxwells, the Hills, the Gibsons, and the Stevens. On the 17th of November, 1514, "Joannes Gypsone, junior, is rentalled in 6s. 3d. of the lands of Mykil Gwffane with consent of Robert Anderson." We find the Hills figuring on the 20th of July, 1521, on which day "Maister Robart Hyl and Jhone Hyll, sone off Steffyn Hyll, rentalit in xi js. vj d. land off Gwuane, be consent off Besse Elphynstoune, schw brwkand quhil scho leiffis." The Stevens appear in the registers on the 29th of August, 1526, when an entry informs us that "Rob Stevyne rentalit in x s. land in Govane." These names occur frequently subsequent to the last date, and to this day representatives of the aforementioned families occupy honourable positions both in the commercial and professional world of Glasgow and district.

The connection of these families with the district adjoining the burgh is long and honourable, and the memory of such is worthy indeed of preservation. In

* The last of the Holmfauldhead Rowans, Katharine Hutton Rowan, is married to James Dalrymple Duncan, writer, Glasgow.

† "Holmfauldhead House," by James Dalrymple Duncan, in the Regality Club publications.

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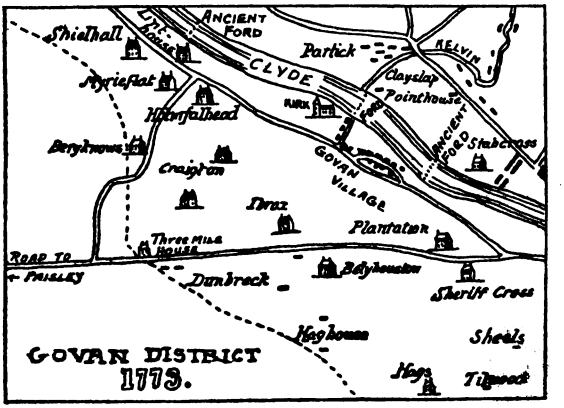
many ways they have left an indelible impress of their residence in our midst. Between them they owned Pollok, Bellahouston, Ibrox, and Dumbreck, and representatives of these races held the lands named for some centuries. Let us dip a little into the private history of these superiors of the soil. About the year 1590 we have seen that certain heritors in the parish of Govan who had previously held their land as rentallers of the Archbishop of Glasgow obtained a charter of confirmation from King James VI. It is most probable that the lands of Dumbreck were among those thus confirmed, for we find the adjacent lands of Ibrox in



From a map of the period.

the list, and a large number of others of small extent. In August, 1557, an entry in the Diocesan Registers informs us that "Jhone Clwne is rentalit in sax s. iij d. land of Govain in the quarter callit Dwmbrek, be consent and ourgevin of Jhone Lieche, yownger son wmquhill Robet Leiche, last rentallair thairof, baitht wyth our license." At the same time Jhone Clwne "als is rentalit in sax s. iij d. land of the west end of Gowan callit Tewichirhill quarter be consent and ourgevin of Wylzem Anderson, son to Thomas Anderson in Burnebray, and Jonat Hwstown, his spows, last rentalaris thairof."

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At the close of the eighteenth century Dumbreck belonged to William Woddrop, who built the present house, and from whom it passed to his nephew, Robert Scott, of the famous Thistle Bank.* Mr. Scott sold his house and lands to Mr. Steven of Bellahouston, who changed their name to that of his larger estate, and what was formerly Dumbreck House is now Bellahouston, the mansion-house of the united properties.

The valuable estate of Bellahouston had formerly belonged to the old Govan family of Rowans, and it descended to the Stevens through marriage. The Stevens long held land in the parish, for in the charter alluded to above we find mention of "William Stevine, sone of Thomas Stevine in Meikle Govan" as confirmed in certain lands. Some years ago a handsome church was built in connection with the Church of Scotland, and having been endowed, the parish of Bellahouston was formed. This good work was much aided by Mr. Moses Steven.†

In the list of persons confirmed in their lands by James VI.'s charter of 1590, we also find "Thomas Hill, son of Laures Hill, of the 25s. lands of Ybrocks." The family of Hills kept the lands of Ibrox till the middle of the eighteenth century, when John Hill disposed of the larger part of his property to John Picken, maltman in the Gorbals; the other part, after belonging to a family of the name of Graham, came into the hands of John Trotter, merchant in Glasgow, who resided in a house at a little distance from the present one, and called Myrtlemount. In 1801 Alexander Trotter sold his portion of Ibrox to John Bennet, writer in Glasgow. The next proprietor was George M'Nish, writer in Glasgow, in whose hands the estate remained for only a few years. In 1816 John M'Call, merchant in Glasgow, bought Ibrox. To distinguish it from the other portions of the lands he called the house Ibroxhill. He died in 1833, and having had no family

* The Thistle Bank was established in Virginia Street in 1761. It was the third Glasgow bank.

† Moses Steven died unmarried in 1871, and was succeeded by his sisters, Elizabeth and Grace, founders of the Bellahouston Bequest.

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the estate reverted to his nephews, the M'Calls of Daldowie. His widow, Isabella Smith, only daughter of Archibald Smith of Jordanhill, resided here till her death in February, 1871. The house at Ibroxhill is an excellent one, having been very judiciously added to some years after its purchase by John M'Call, from designs by his brother-in-law, James Smith of Jordanhill, who also designed the Govan Old Parish Church, now the Elder Park Parish Church. The grounds whereon the mansion-house of Bellahouston stands was purchased by the Glasgow Corporation in August, 1895, for the nominal sum of £50,000. This was formed into a public park, and is one of the prettiest spots belonging to the citizens. In 1905 the purchase was completed of the adjoining lands with the old mansion-house of Ibroxhill, and these, combined with the Bellahouston grounds, now form probably the finest public park in Glasgow.

We could fill a volume with a history of the noble family of Maxwell, who for centuries have been large landowners in the Govan parish. It is one of the most ancient and distinguished in Scotland. Of Saxon origin, we can trace it back to Maccus, son of Undwin, about 1070. In 1190 Sir John de Macuswell succeeded his father in the Macuswell estates in Roxburghshire. Sir John Maxwell, knight, first of Pollok, was the great-grandson of Maccus, and from this Sir John the estate of Pollok has descended to the present proprietor in unbroken succession. The lands of Pollok came into the possession of the Maxwells towards the close of the thirteenth century—700 years ago—and representatives of the race, as soldiers, statesmen, and senators, have played many prominent parts on the historic stage of Scotland throughout these long years. The heart of the Scot warms towards that gallant and chivalrous knight of Pollok, Sir John Maxwell, who, for the love he bore

Haggs Castle.

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to the beautiful Queen Mary, came near to losing his lands thereby.

He fought for her at Langside, and was denounced by the Regent Murray as a rebel. Murray ordered him to deliver up the town and fortalice of Nether Pollok, and as he refused to obey, there is a strong belief that his castle was destroyed. Crookston Castle, where the courtship of Mary and Darnley is said to have reached fruition, is on part of the Maxwell estate, while a large portion of the parish of Govan is owned by the family. This includes the lands of Haggs, Titwood, and Shields.

In the Rental Books of the Barony of Glasgow the name is of frequent occurrence. On the 20th of December, 1515, "Maister Robert Maxwell* is rentellet in iiij merk land off Gwffane Haggis." An entry of the 21st February, 1527, informs us that George Maxwell of Kowglen† and John of Maxwell, his son and heir, were rentalled the forty shilling "land of the Tydwod." In October of 1553 John Maxwell, son and heir of "Jhone Maxwel of Nyddyr Poolk, is rentaillit in fower merk land of Eist Scheillis of Gwne and Gwane Haggis‡, and in fourte shg land in the Tetwod, be the consent of his fathyr." Nine years afterwards, on the 16th of December, 1662, the same John Maxwell "is rentallit in 6s. 3d. land of Mekle Gowan be consent of Wylzem Anderson,§ last rentaillair thairof." And so on.

The wave of superstition which swept over the country in the latter end of the seventeenth century appears, strange as it may seem, regarding one so distinguished, to have affected the then head of the house. We find,

*The future Bishop of Orkney, a younger son of the Nether Pollok family. These lands of Haggs are now a very valuable estate.

†George Maxwell was a brother of the Bishop of Orkney. His son and heir, John, married the daughter of his uncle, the Laird of Nether Pollok, and carried on the line of that family.

‡The quaintly turreted castle of Haggs was built in 1585, and was for centuries the dower-house of Pollok. In covenanting days conventicles were twice at least held within its walls, and for countenancing them Sir John Maxwell was, in 1684, fined £8000 by the Privy Council. He refused to pay, and lay in prison for sixteen months.

§Anderson is a very old Govan name, as are also M'Nair and Dreghorn.

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in 1676, that Sir George Maxwell believed himself bewitched to death by six witches, one man and five women, who were leagued for the purpose of tormenting a clay image in his likeness. The chief evidence on the subject was a vagabond girl, who pretended to be deaf and dumb. Her imposture was afterwards discovered and herself punished, but in the meantime, through her treacherous proceedings, five of the accused were executed, and the sixth only escaped on account of extreme youth.*

The Maxwell estates, or that part of them which lie in the parish of Govan, are now of great value. The territory is practically all built over with villas, and, probably with the exception of the Duke of Westminster's princedom in London, will be the most valuable holding in the country. Sir John Stirling-Maxwell,† the present baronet, succeeded to the title in 1878.

* See Sir Walter Scott's "Letters on Demonology and Witchcraft."

† The Maxwells were for generations Rectors of Glasgow University.

Holmfauldhead House.

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CHAPTER IX.

POPULATION IN 1790—THE VILLAGE INDUSTRIES —ALE AND WHISKY HOUSES IN PARISH—A DISSIPATED AGE — DAVID DREGHORN OF LONG GOVAN—GOVAN IN 1800—THE POINT-HOUSE TAVERN—SALMON FISHERS—THE OLD SILK MILL—AGRICULTURE.

Meikle Govane during the eighteenth century was a village of a decidedly primitive type, a veritable sleepy hollow. Weaving and salmon fishing gave occupation to the breadwinners of the 224 families who constituted the population. Thatched cottages of a single storey formed the major portion of the straggling single street, but at the Water Row were to be found one or two structures of superior architectural dimensions.* They towered over their compeers with the majesty lent by a couple of storeys and crow-stepped gable. No little sensation was produced among the simple villagers when, in 1800, there was built in their midst, at the Cross, a fine square two-storied parish school, the roof of which was slated. Such a vision of noble design and architecture was beyond their wildest dreams. Its presence lent a dignity to the village which had formerly been wanting. The "maister," a mighty magnate, lived on the upper floor; the schoolroom was below. The villagers had now a meeting-place worthy of the name, and deep and grave were the questions debated therein. Scholarly, indeed, felt the Govanite as he gazed upon the splendid institution. He felt within him the stirrings of a greater life—he was progressing.

* There was also a very fine two-storied house in the old main street, whose peculiar architecture suggested a Border Peel. See our view of "Main Street looking towards Maxwell Street."

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By permission of the Corporation of Govan.

Main Street, Govan, from Maxwell Street, 1870.

(Now dry-docks.)

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Let us glance at a few figures which tell us of the life in our parish during these early and peaceful years. They are quaintly reminiscent of times that have vanished, chased into the limbo of things forgotten by the hard and mighty god of steel. Walk along the busy streets of to-day and gaze at the constant stream of people traversing the same—thus can we realise the great gulf which lies between us and the closing decade of the eighteenth century.

In 1790 the population of the entire parish (excluding Gorbals, which was disjoined in 1771) was only 2518. The numbers were made up as follows:—1266 males, 1252 females; the males, strange to say, being in the majority. According to age, the distribution was—under 8 years of age, 532; between 8 and 80 years, 1963; between 80 and 90 years, 21; and between 90 and 100 years, 2. Doubtless, the reason why the maximum age for juveniles is stated in Sinclair at 8 years instead of 14, as now is, will be found in the fact that at the age of 8 children were then expected and allowed to go to work in the fields or factories.

In the village of Govan the population, as we have seen, consisted of 224 families, or about 1000 persons, and in the parish there were no fewer than 279 hand-loom weavers, the majority of whom resided in "Meikle Govane." The houses are declared to have been, in general, old, ill-aired, and extremely incommodious. Not only so, but—think upon this, ye modern Govanites—the village had no baker, no butcher, nor public market of any kind. The inhabitants were compelled to travel to Glasgow for all provisions. In those days this was a formidable journey owing to the thieves, footpads, and evil characters of all descriptions who haunted the lonely waste between Govan and the city. Neither train, tram, nor even 'bus catered for hire in the village then.

There was no civil magistrate to enforce order and punish crimes; the old Govanite was a law unto himself. Matters must have been in a bad state, if we are to believe Dr. Pollock. In his contribution to Sinclair (1790) he asks, and with a

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considerable measure of reason it will be confessed—"What can be expected but that the children (of Govan) should have been neglected in their education; that many of the youth should be unacquainted with the principles of religion, and dissolute in their morals, and that licentious cabal should too often usurp the place of peaceable and sober deportment"? Truly a doleful picture.

Listen to the old doctor for a moment. "Cleanliness is by no means sufficiently attended to by the lower classes of the people, and the water, which till lately was suffered to stagnate on both sides of the publick road through the village of Govan (which is about one mile in length), was highly offensive to travellers. The villagers seemed, however, from their being at no pains to drain it, not to consider it any nuisance, and though the effluvia arising from it could not be of a salubrious quality, it has been long remarked that the people are exceedingly healthy and that many of them reach a very advanced age." Which statement may be taken by some as convincing proof of the wisdom contained in the old Scotch saying that "dirt is healthy." The majority of the inhabitants were then weavers, while the salmon fisheries on the Clyde were a considerable object of attention and yielded an annual rent of £49 sterling to the heritors. The worthy doctor, however, has a good word to say of the parish agriculture, and warmly eulogises the activity, industry, and enterprise of the farmers. Indeed, he makes claim—the said claim occupying several pages of his contribution to the account—that there is no parish, perhaps, in the West of Scotland wherein agriculture had been brought to greater perfection than in Govan.

Referring again to the general character of the inhabitants, he tells us that the superior class in the village was social, hospitable, liberal to the poor, and generally regular in attending the ordinances of religion. The "generally regular" is worth a little consideration, and doubtless covered a multitude of sins in the writer's eyes. The "lower classes" were not regarded with favour by the doctor. We learn that "from a great part of the operative people in the village, 279 of

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whom are weavers, temperance, it is much to be lamented, has not obtained a place among the cardinal virtues." There were then no fewer than 22 ale or whisky houses in the parish of Govan, and says the doctor, "Had it not been taken from the Excise officers' books it might be thought incredible that, when the cotton manufacture was in a flourishing state, 1500 gallons of whisky were consumed in the village of Govan in a single quarter of a year." Be it so. The worthy doctor, however, overlooks the amount of dissipation which characterised the age he lived in; dissipation, too, which prevailed to an incredible extent, and engrossed the leisure hours of men of the highest rank and official dignity. No rank, class, or profession, indeed, formed an exception to this rule. In Simonds's "Tour of Scotland," published in 1811, the writer mentions his surprise on stepping one morning into the Parliament House, Edinburgh, and finding in the dignified capacity of judge the very gentleman with whom he had spent most of the preceding night in a fierce debauch. This judge was Lord Newton. The "high jinks" of Counsellor Pleydell in "Guy Mannering" powerfully illustrate these curious traits of a bypast age, and in the notes to the novel Scott further illustrates the subject by an anecdote respecting President Dundas of Arniston, father of Lord Melville. This celebrated Lord-Advocate was no less an eminent *bon-vivant* than a lawyer of unequalled talent, and Sir Walter tells how, after Dundas had spent from noon till nine at night honouring Bacchus, he was able to dictate an appeal case, the task taking till four o'clock the next morning! These habits were not confined to gentlemen, but also affected the fairer part of creation. The custom which prevailed among ladies of patrician rank of resorting to oyster-cellars in the High Street of Edinburgh, where they regaled themselves with raw oysters and porter, is typical of the time; and we read in a curious paper in the "Edinburgh Magazine" for August, 1817, that at the period mentioned, "though it was a disgrace for ladies to be seen drunk, yet it was none to be a little intoxicated in good company"! With such example from their "betters,"

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can we wonder at the hardworked, underpaid, and underfed weavers of old Govan

> " at e'enin' meet,
> Their bizzin' craigs and mous to weet,
> And blithely gar auld care gae by,
> Wi' blinkin' and wi' bleerin' eye." *

About 1800 the village of Govan boasted of an hostel second to none in the district round about the city. Mine host appears to have been a worthy of the first water. The hostelry was the "Ferrie-bot," of which we have just read, but known in these later years as the "Buc'." It was a tidy, cosy howff, and even to-day, in its modern character of dwelling-house, presents in the interior an appearance of cosiness and comfort in its low ceiling and "nooky" design seldom associated with the up-to-date tenement. To those who love such links with the past as still remain to us, the identical "Ferrie-bot," *i.e.* "Buc'," and latterly the "Waverley," † can still be seen alongside the vehicular ferry. Should our visitor travel on horseback, he may attach the reins of his steed to the old iron ring in the wall of the house beside the doorway, which will "hold" the animal what time he enters the adjoining house and enjoys a crack with a descendant of honest, jovial David Dreghorn, who was the well-known Boniface about 1800. The house has been in the possession of the Dreghorn family for over 150 years, but has ceased being a tavern for close upon half a century. In this house the "White Wine Club" of Glasgow, founded in 1804, held its monthly symposium. "The house of David Dreghorn of Long Govan," says Strang, in "Old Glasgow Clubs," was the meeting-place, and he adds, "when that picturesquely situated village still retained

* From a characteristic verse by Fergusson. The opening lines run thus :—

> "Auld Reekie! wale o' ilka toon
> That Scotland kens beneath the moon ;
> Where coothy chields at e'enin' meet," etc.

† The "Waverley" licence was transferred to Langlands Road, and is now held by Mrs. Buchanan, a descendant of the landlord from whom the inn at the ferry derived the cognomen "Buc'."

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its rural character, and where the notable men who surrounded the Saturday's board could eat *salmon just caught under the windows of the hostelry*, and freely quaff Scotland's "vin du pays"—aquavitæ—without fear of death in the cup." There was no wine on the table, the liquor used on these occasions being the club's own favourite "white wine," which, being interpreted, meaneth "whisky." David, the worthy host, was rather a facetious character, and a story recalling his readiness of repartee may be mentioned. On a certain occasion a rather mean and narrow lady in Govan said to him, "Weel, Maister Dreghorn, hoo are ye selling your half salmon just noo"? and to this query David pithily replied, "When we catch ony hauf salmon, mem, we'll be share tae let ye ken."

List for a moment to the following description of Govan written about 1800, and ye will confess that the changes wrought during the century have been mighty indeed:—"Do any of our east or south country readers know anything of the little village of Govan,* within two miles or so of the city of Glasgow? If they do, they will acknowledge, we daresay, that it is one of the most prettily-situated little hamlets that may be seen. On a summer evening, when the tide is at its height, filling up the channel of the river from side to side in a bumper, and gliding stilly and gently along between its margins of green, there cannot, we think, be anything prettier than the scene of which the little picturesque village of Govan forms the centre or principal object. The antique row of houses stretching down to the water, widened at this particular spot into a little lake by the confluence of the Kelvin; the rude but picturesque salmon fishers' hut in the foreground, the river winding far to the west and skirting the beautiful hills of Kilpatrick, that form the boundary of the scene in that direction—all combine to form, as we have already said, a scene of more than ordinary beauty. Pleasant, indeed, was the walk of

* During the closing years of the eighteenth century it was quite a usual thing for Glasgow folks to take summer lodgings in Govan and Partick villages. Advertisements of "Rooms to let" in Govan appear frequently in newspapers of the period.

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a summer's evening on the banks of the Clyde; pleasant was the feast of kippered salmon, for which the village was celebrated; but pleasanter than all were the looks, the kindly, pawky looks, the civility, and the homely but shrewd wit of David Dreghorn, the honest, worthy, and kind hearted landlord of the . . . We are not sure if his house had a name, but it was not necessary; for well and widely was David known, and by none was he known by whom he was not esteemed and respected."

These were the days when the waters of the Clyde, unpolluted by the sewage of the city and undisturbed by the paddle or screw of the steamboat, was drank by the villagers. Truly it was a pellucid stream then. The times have changed and we have changed with them. We live now in an atmosphere of smoke, our ears are deafened with the noise of machinery, and our nostrils are polluted with the putrid tide. Perhaps we are more wealthy, more enterprising, more knowing than our forefathers were—but who shall say we are more happy and contented or more honest and true!

"Well back in this century," says William Young, in his charmingly-phrased contribution on Govan to the Regality Club publications, "Govan was liberally supplied with taverns, for an old gentleman born and bred in the village informed the writer that when he was a boy (in the thirties) they numbered 21. The same boy killed on the site of what is now the Govan railway station that shy and wary bird the wild duck. He has also seen salmon taken from the net at the Lover's Loan, transferred to boxes filled with water, and delivered alive at the 'new town market,' Glasgow, the site of which is now occupied by the premises of the 'Glasgow Herald.'" In the "Glasgow Mercury" of 21st July, 1794, appears a notice to the effect that "a few days ago the salmon fishing on the river Clyde, belonging to certain proprietors in the village of Govan, was let for three years at £104 per annum." Previous to that year we read of great takes of salmon from the Clyde near to Govan. The "Glasgow Journal" of 18th July, 1748, announced that salmon was to be sold in the Glasgow market at "a penny the pound." Up till

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about the beginning of 1840 there stood on what is now the landing berths of Messrs. Mackie & Thomson's shipbuilding yard a fisherman's hut, which, like the first houses ever erected in old Govan, was built of wattles, mud, and turf.

Govan Ferry was then, as it is to-day, one of the most important on the Clyde. Just opposite to the old theekit cottages, still on the Govan bank, was the Pointhouse tavern. In 1782, the Pointhouse, with the land adjoining, was exposed for sale, the advertisement describing it as "The Point House, with the land adjoining the Ferry, with the ferry boats." The right-of-ferry would appear from that advertisement to be included, and the whole was offered at the upset price of £400, with what result does not appear. Pointhouse, and land adjoining, formed latterly part of the entailed estate of Yorkhill, and are described in the titles of the estate as "all and whole the lands called Pointhouse, and houses built upon the said lands, and garden and ground at the back thereof, containing in whole three acres two roods and thirty-nine falls; bounded by the river Kelvin upon the west, the river Clyde on the south, the lands sometime belonging to the town of Glasgow on the east, and the road leading from the Ferry to Partick on the north parts, and which lands were acquired partly from Crawford of Gartnavel, partly from John Shiels, and partly from John Purdon, and *lie in the parish of Govan* and shire of Lanark." The road referred to as leading from Pointhouse to Partick lay, in these early days, along the Kelvin all the way to the village of Partick. It has since been diverted, and its site near the Clyde, together with land to the west of the old roadway, and down to the edge of the Kelvin, is now occupied by the busy shipbuilding yard of Messrs. A. & J. Inglis. The Pointhouse was a hostelry with a thatched roof. Adjoining it were one or two small cottages, and the whole group was pulled down eventually. The present inn occupies very nearly the site of the old Pointhouse, and the ground whereon the Messrs. Inglis' drawing-offices are erected was, up till past the middle of last century, a bowling green. (For further notes about the old Govan Ferry, see last chapter.)

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The salmon fishery at Govan was let for the first time by the different heritors, whose lands gave them a right to fish in the Clyde, to one tacksman about the year 1790. The rent obtained was £30. In 1794, as we have seen, the rental had risen to £104, and in 1812 it reached £326 annually. From that year, however, there was a steady decline,* due in a great measure to the introduction of the steamboat in 1812 (when the "Comet" was launched), and the consequent disturbance of the waters of the river. In 1839 the rental had fallen to £60. Yet, within the memory of a worthy old Govanite (Mr. Peter Hutchison, a member of the first Commission Board for the burgh in 1864), still hale and hearty, the salmon have been seen carted up the Water Row in such numbers that they were slipping off the cart. These were the days when the indentures of the weavers' apprentices contained a stipulation that the boys were not to be obliged to eat salmon to dinner oftener than three times a week. Who would not wish to have been an apprentice in these halcyon days?

Fishing began in the month of February, the weavers in Govan then leaving their looms and fishing until the month of September. There were four fishing shots on the Govan water, and as many as ten salmon were often brought in in one shot. The water of the Clyde was then so pure that the good folks of old Govan used it for making their tea. In the summer mornings the salmon are said to have been seen jumping in the water as thick as lythe; and it was no unusual thing for two cartloads of this lordly fish to be caught in one tide at Govan Ferry. This was in the early years of last century—one hundred years ago exactly.

Centuries before it would seem as if the Clyde had been the haunt *par excellence* of that fish. In Bishop Leslie's "History of Scotland" the writer states that in the sixteenth century the burgesses of Renfrew, who enjoyed the privilege of fishing salmon on both

* The fishing rights of Govan appear to have gradually slipped away from the community, due doubtless to the lack of a properly-constituted local authority prior to 1864. It may be here remarked that the Clyde Trust still pay upwards of £200 a year to Renfrew as compensation to that burgh for the loss of its fishing, caused by the Trust's operations.

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banks of the Clyde, had often sixty boats so employed during the whole of the spring and summer. So pure was the water in bygone days that porpoises have appeared as far up the river as Govan Ferry. One, which was ten feet long, was caught in a net at the Broomielaw on the 13th February, 1793. Five others were killed between that place and Govan Ferry in May, 1801. In Carmile Dam, above Glasgow, about 1780, a still more uncommon fish, a sturgeon, was killed, which measured eight feet in length. It was exhibited in Glasgow to the curious for two or three days (Denholm's "History of Glasgow," pp. 97, 428, third edition). Truly, these were the romantic days of Govan life, but they have passed away never to return.

With the decay of the salmon fishing industry, many of the inhabitants had to cast about for other means of livelihood. This was supplied by the erection, in 1824, in the village, and on the ground now taken up by the eastmost "slip" of the Fairfield Co.'s shipbuilding yard, of *the first factory for throwing silk in Scotland.* It was erected by Morris Pollok, and the old, disused building was a familiar landmark till within four years ago, when the extension of Fairfield yard necessitated its removal. In 1839 the number of persons employed in the silk factory averaged 250. Of these the larger proportion were children, *none of them under eight years of age.* The grown-up people were at work eleven hours a day, and *the children from ten to eleven hours!* Work ceased at seven in the evening, with the exception of Saturdays, when it stopped at three in the afternoon. Wages in these days were by no means of a princely character. The men's varied from 12s. to 18s. weekly, and the young women's from 6s. to 7s. For their ten to eleven hours per day of slavery the little children, none, mark ye, "of whom were under eight years of age," received from 2s. to 5s. a week! In Swan's (1838) "Views on the Clyde," p. 60, we read that, "Govan factory is heated by steam, and the steam pipes, instead of being suspended from the ceiling of each flat, are disposed in beds in the ground floor within a few inches of the ground. Round the bottom of the ground floor are perforations in the walls, through which is rushing a current of fresh air, which,

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being heated and rarified by the steam beds, ascends from them, through holes and pipes in the floor, to the upper stories, producing a constant supply of pure and warm air from the bottom to the top of the factory. The benefit of this is evinced by the total absence of that feeling of suffocation met with in most other factories. The boiler is fed with boiling water by means of a subsidiary boiler, which the proprietor has called a Colville, in honour of a young man, Peter Colville, whose suggestion it was. Besides saving fuel, the operation of the steam is thereby more steady, not being damped by the influx of water comparatively cold. The Colville is placed at the side of the large boiler, constituting for its length one side of the flue, and is thus kept boiling by that heat which otherwise would be lost in the wall." So much for the ventilation, whereby, let us hope, the children benefited.

There was also a dyework in the village,* which occupied the site of what is now Messrs. Mackie & Thomson's shipyard. It employed 81 men and 37 women, and the wages averaged from 12s. to 16s. per week for the men, and from 6s. to 7s. for the women. But the staple industry was hand-loom weaving, there being as many as 340 of such weavers in the village. The introduction of the power-loom was by this time (1840) seriously handicapping the brethren of the hand-loom, and we learn that the latter were often obliged to content themselves with earnings ranging from 5s. to 8s. a week.

Agriculture, however, as in the closing years of the previous century, was in a flourishing condition. Says Dr. Leishman :—"In no part of the country is the produce of potatoes greater than in the parish of Govan." He accounts for this remarkably fruitful state of the land round Govan by the fact that the farmer was able to draw a plentiful supply of manure from Glasgow. The average rent of land was then about £4 an acre. Farm labourers commanded as good a wage as the weaver—ten shillings a week in winter, and twelve shillings in summer, being common. The doctor also remarks that "the turnip, an exotic from Flanders, was cultivated for the first time in this neighbourhood by Mr. William Cross of Parkhouse,

* Erected by Alexander Reid, father of the late Provost Reid.

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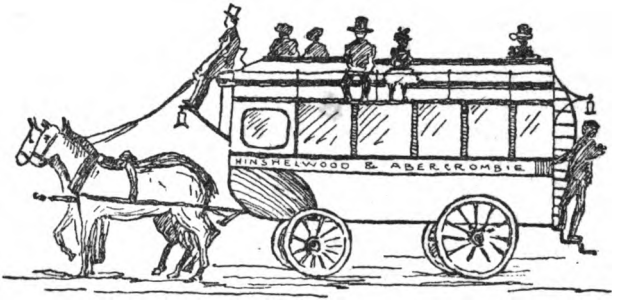
sheriff of the county of Lanark, who introduced it into the parish of Govan in the year 1756." The appearance of the land about Heathery Hall mansion-house was, in 1840, richly agricultural, luxuriant crops being a feature. Heathery Hall (James Rowan* of Heathery Hall was witness to a document of 10th October, 1764, whereby the feuars of Gorbals "appointed the agreement with Mr. William Thom, present minister in the paroch of Govan, anent the election of a preacher in Gorballs, to be recorded") occupied the site of what is now the entrance to the canting basin for ocean liners in the Prince's Dock—which will enable one to realise the vast changes that have taken place in the local landscape during the past quarter of a century.

* As we have seen in a former chapter, the Rowans were one of the principal Govan families. In 1652 there was a James Rowan "in that part called Teucharhill"; in 1661 a John Rowan of Greenhead; and in 1726 James Rowan of Marylands, who in that year acquired Bellahouston by purchase from John Gibson of Overnewton. They have also held the estate of Holmfauldhead since 1690.



The Old Govan and Glasgow 'Bus.

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CHAPTER X.

PAISLEY ROAD TOLL—OLD GOVAN ROAD—MOSES WADDELL'S—MAIN STREET—THE 42ND HIGHLANDERS—A SUMMER AFTERNOON—WILLIE FARQUHAR—A MODEL VILLAGE—EAST *v.* WEST.

The construction of the Prince's, formerly the Cessnock, Dock in 1897 effected a wondrous change in the appearance of that part of Govan. Govan Road, before that change, ran parallel with the Clyde up to what is now known as Paisley Road Toll, where it joined the Paisley Road. The Parkhouse toll-bars were just at the gushet—one for the Renfrew Road, and the other for the "Three Mile House," or Paisley Road. There was constant travelling on both turnpikes by persons proceeding from Glasgow to Greenock and to Paisley. Daily vehicular communication was kept up between these places and the city by means of carriers' waggons and stage coaches. With the introduction of steamboat traffic on the river, the revenues of the Renfrew Road toll-bar did not keep pace with the increasing traffic of the county; and when the Glasgow and Ayr railway opened on the 14th of July, 1840, and the Glasgow and Greenock on the 31st March, 1841, the revenues from both toll-gates rapidly diminished. From 1780 to 1794 these two tolls—Three Mile House Road and Renfrew Road—constituted one trust. The rental derived from them amounted in 1781 to £143; in the last year of their existence as one trust, 1794, the rental came to £263. After each road was placed under a separate trust the income was greatly augmented. From 15th May, 1794, to 15th May, 1795, the Three Mile House toll-bar drew £296 8s., and for the same period the Renfrew Road income was £180. In 1805 the takings showed an enormous increase, being respectively £1191 and £617.

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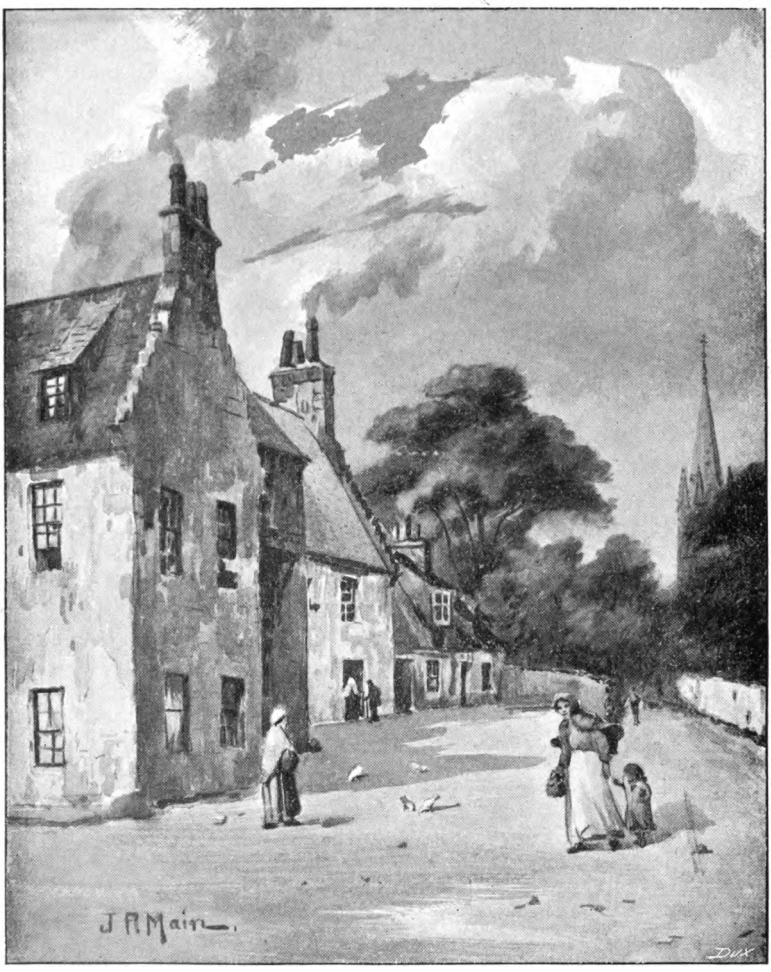

From picture in possession of Jas. Wilson, Esq., Maryville.

The Manse Lane, 1870.
(House in foreground is Moses Waddell's.)

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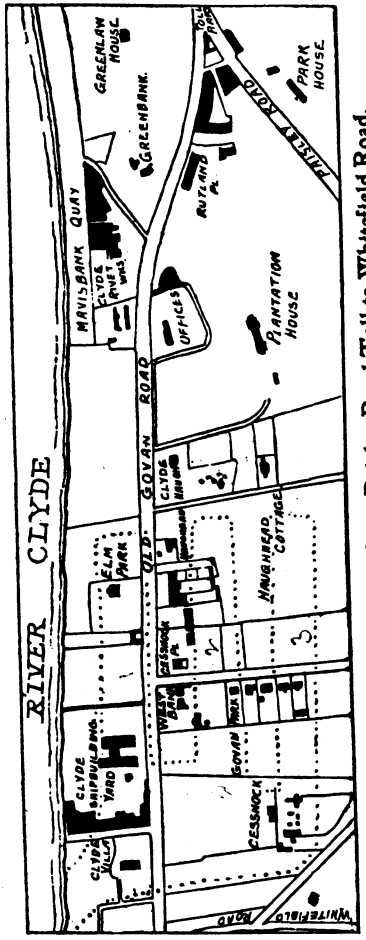

Map of Govan, about 1858, from Paisley Road Toll to Whitefield Road.

(The dotted lines show the docks.)

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In what we might term the last year of their halcyon days, 1840, the income from the Three Mile House toll was £1806 13s. 4d., and from the Renfrew Road toll £778 6s. 8d.; from then, what with keen railway and steamboat competition, the revenue was a steadily evanishing one, and both tolls were finally abolished in 1879.

From Paisley Road Toll one can still travel by the line of the original Govan Road to where the Prince's Dock cuts it off, just at the corner of the street-way leading to Mavisbank quay, the new Govan Road beginning there and skirting the docks until the old road is once more taken up at the end of the graving docks. The area now occupied by the Prince's Dock was, in these times we write of—1840-50—a beautiful piece of pastoral land, studded with the villas of opulent gentlemen. An ancient thoroughfare indeed is that "old Govan Road." So far back as the times of David, the "sair sanct," who granted the lands of Govan to the bishopric of Glasgow, there was a road leading "from the monastery at Govane to the king's residence at Ruglen." We can trace bits of that royal path here and there. In the now sadly-deserted main street of the burgh we have a portion. From there it ran through the ground whereon now stands Messrs. Mackie & Thomson's offices;* thence past the old "Sheep Head Inn" nearer the Clydeside to the right; skirted the base of the "Doomster Hill," and emerged at the Cross just about the spot where St. Mary's Free Church stands. It then deviated towards Water Row, and we catch sight of it again in the Manse Lane or Loan leading directly to the sacred ground in the midst of which the Parish Kirk rears itself—ground which, at a remote period, was the site of the monastery of Govan.

The Manse Loan was a picturesque bit of Govan a matter of 40 years ago. Our view of it shows the famous Moses Waddell's Inn—the house in the foreground with the crow-stepped gable. In the lower storey we see the windows of the historic apartment wherein, for

* The quaint little gatehouse which leads to the yard was at one time the entrance lodge to the mansion-house occupied by the Bairds of Govan. It stood between Mackie & Thomson's and the London and Glasgow yards.

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nearly a century, the Govan Weavers' Society held their annual deacon-choosing. To this house also, on Govan Fair night, came the processionists—the Weavers' Society and the Govan Youths' Society*—and dancing was indulged in by the members thereof on the green near by. You had to be a Govanite born and bred if you wished to take part in these festivities. A worthy old gentleman long resident in the burgh tells how, the first Fair night he spent in Govan, he wandered to the Cross for the purpose of viewing the dancing. The merry strains of the music proved too tempting, and he moved forward with the intention of joining in the "light fantastic." Old Moses Waddell himself was standing in the doorway of his hostel enjoying the ongoings. He caught sight of the stranger youth making for the dancers, and running up to him seized his arm, saying at the same time, "Na, na, my man, it's no for the likes o' you. It's only them that's rale Govanites, born and bred in the toon, wha's alloed tae tak pairt in the dancin' this nicht." Moses Waddell's hostelry was a very old one, and the building dated back to the early years of the seventeenth century. With the exception of the old house in the Water Row, it was probably the most ancient structure in Govan. The other two houses shown in the sketch were occupied by weavers, and to the right we are allowed a glimpse of the spire of the Parish Kirk—removed in 1886 to near Elder Park. These picturesque old tenements were pulled down some years ago, and the site is now occupied by the palatial premises of the Govan Y.M.C.A. (instituted 1881).

As remarked before, the old parish school stood nearly opposite Moses Waddell's, and where St. Mary's rears its front to the Cross there was a row of thatched cottages. One of these cottages was occupied by a tidy, respectable woman who kept a dairy. In her little establishment Dr. Leishman, the parish minister, was wont for many a year to enjoy a simple mid-day lunch 'twixt sermon time on the Sundays, and also upon sundry week-days. This rural spot was entirely

*A local society established 1821 and dissolved 1889. The old flags carried by the "youths" are in the possession of Dr. W. G. Barras, of Westbourne, Ibrox.

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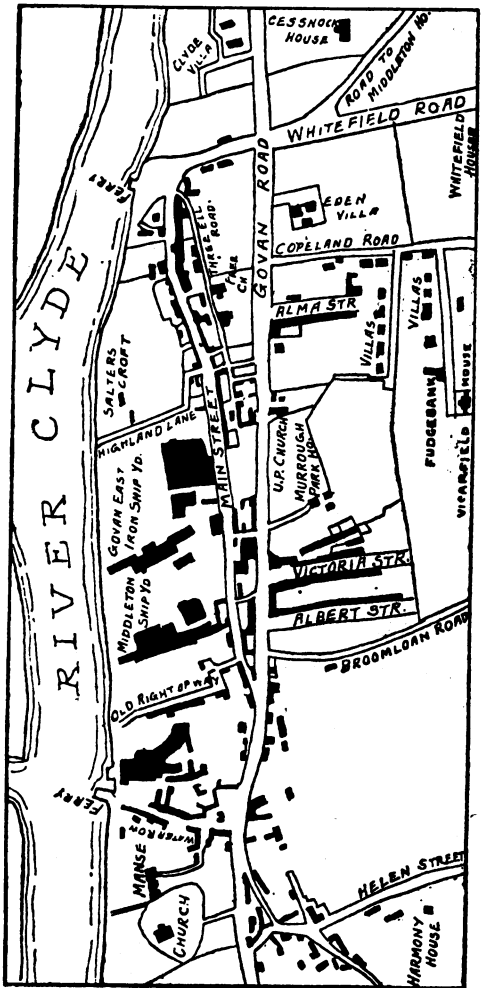

Map of Govan, about 1858, from Whitefield Road to Harmony Row.

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obliterated in 1872, when the erection of St. Mary's was commenced. Let us, however, wend our way back again to where we found ourselves at the commencement of this chapter—at the east end of the village.

It is a fine summer afternoon, say in the year 1860, and we shall take advantage of the good day and walk from the old village to Plantation. We have been to Salters Croft farm, in these times a celebrated dairy with no little fame, derived from the curds and cream dispensed in May to the wanderers from the neighbouring city of Glasgow. The farm building stood very near to that piece of ground now occupied by the west end of No 1. graving dock; the steading or offices were adjacent to where the Highland Lane (Loan) joins the right-of-way by the Clydeside. The Highland Loan derives its nowadays rather *outré* cognomen by having, from a remote period, been a pathway by which the Highland drovers, after crossing the fords at Govan, made their way with their cattle to the great roads which led southwards. The Crow Road, which winds northward from Partick past historic Jordanhill and Garscube, was also at one time a much-frequented drove road traversed by all the northern drovers who crossed the Govan fords going either south or north.

Walking up this old loan, then, we find it pleasantly bordered with hedges, trees, and green meadowland, and we emerge on the village main street near the old-fashioned house—now the "Dock Restaurant"—at the foot of Maxwell Street. Turning to the left we pursue our road, as our view shows, through a delightfully quaint village. On either side of the street are thatched cottages (where these stood is now No. 2 graving dock) with clean, white-washed walls. Not a sound is to be heard but the drowsy hum of the weaver's loom; the merry laughter of a group of children playing in the fields behind the houses breaks sweetly on the ear; a hen and her chickens scarce stir from the path while we go by. We are traversing a typical "sleepy hollow." Glance again at these two delightfully quaint pictures of that old main street of the village. What a clean, old-world, little spot! Quiet and comfort are the keynotes struck by that scene. How great is the change on that same spot to-day!

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We realise it when looking at the vast dry-dock, with the mighty sea leviathan H.M.S. "Hindustan" (16,000 tons) lying in it. That dock is constructed on the ground occupied by our old village. Another contrast is provided by our photograph of the same dock with the "Clan Menzies" steamship just floated in. But we must proceed.

After passing Southcroft House* and the old Free Church on our right, lying between the Three Ell Road and Govan Road, we pause for a moment to admire an ancient two-storied house with fine Scotch crow-stepped gables. There is no date, but the architecture is obviously early seventeenth century. It conveys a suggestion of the border peel. Our illustration (Main Street, looking west) brings out clearly the beauty of this old building. Pausing on the street next to it, we see in the distance the corner house of Maxwell Street—the Dock Restaurant. The thatched cottage just beyond this house was the last place in Govan wherein the old trade of hand-loom weaving was carried on. It is now demolished. Turning, then, from our ancient two-storied friend we drop into the "Stag," and, over a cog of the famous Govan ale, watch for a time the coming and going of the ferry-boat, whose station is just below our windows. (We are at the east end of No. 2 graving dock.) The Two Mile House, which stands at Ibrox Station, is in architecture an exact reproduction of the "Stag" inn we refer to.

The old main street which we have just traversed was at one time the public highway leading to Greenock. Tradition tells us that the good folks resident in this quarter were disturbed early one summer Sunday morning long, long ago by the beating of drums and the marching of men. The weaver, his wife, and his family rushed to window and door, and were amazed on seeing a plumed and kilted regiment of soldiers passing by. It was the 42nd Highlanders *en route* from Hamilton to Greenock, from which port the battalion embarked, in May, 1756, for North America and the

* Southcroft House was for a long time occupied by Mr. Thomas Baird, banker, whose son, Mr. David Dreghorn Baird, still carries on the agency of the Union Bank in Govan. The first building for the Union Bank was erected on Southcroft.

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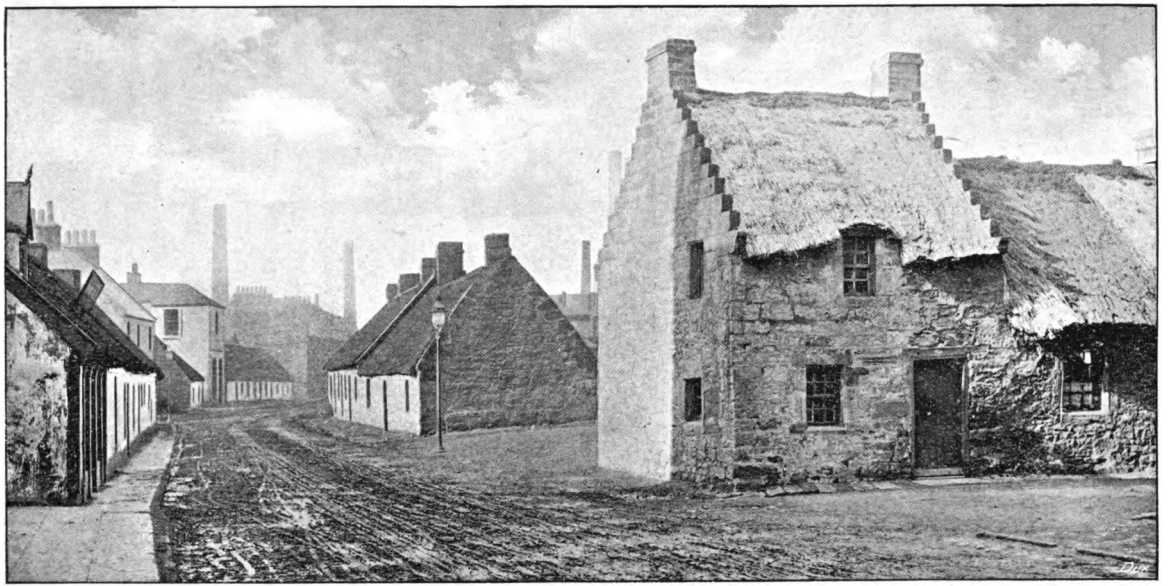

By permission of the Corporation of Govan.

Main Street, Govan, looking towards Maxwell Street, 1870.
(Now dry-docks.)

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disastrous field of Ticonderago. And how the old weaver and his lusty youngsters cheered the kilties on their way! Such a scene as the foregoing would, in the closing years of the eighteenth century, be tolerably familiar to the Govanites. The gallant 42nd again passed through Govan village in 1776 for Greenock and North America, where the War of Independence had just begun, and we may take it that many another brave corps awoke the echoes of the old village as they swung through it, all bound for the same struggle.

Refreshed, then, and rested, we pursue our journey. A bend of the street to the right and we pass the end of Three Ell Road and join the Whitefield Road.

Whitefield Road, 1842, at junction with Three Ell Road (now dry-docks).

This Three Ell Road was so named because it measured in breadth three times a weaver's ell-wand, and, at the period we speak of, was familiarly known as the "Back of the Dykes." There is still a portion of this old thoroughfare to be seen between Maxwell Street and Orchard Lane. Our sketch gives a good impression of its appearance. A memory of the days when this part of Govan was largely taken up by the fruit gardens of the villagers is preserved in the name of the now sadly disreputable-looking Orchard Lane.

We are now at the east end of Govan village, the ground of which is to-day partly occupied by No. 1 graving dock, and partly by the entrance to the

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Cessnock Dock. Simpson's sketch of the east end, which we reproduce, well conveys the rural aspect of the scene. Since it was taken the whole district on both sides of the river has been transformed. The bend of the river on the Govan side seen in the picture has been modified, and wharves built on the north side. Where the trees stretch across the middle distance the graving docks have been constructed. The old Kelvinhaugh ferry (transferred to Highland Lane) steps are seen, with the primitive ferry-boat, and also the post which indicated that the distance to the Broomielaw was one mile.

Leaving the river, we turn up Whitefield Road, passing on our right an ancient single-storey thatched cottage. A little garden formed a delightful foreground, while elm and ash trees flung their arms over the cottage roof. Our pen-and-ink drawing—after a water-colour by Simpson—shows this old cottage, and also, looking over the river, a ship, drawn up, for repairs apparently, on Kelvinhaugh slip-dock (Shearer's). Proceeding up the Clyde is a tug. The simplicity and quietness of that landscape is curiously at variance with the present work-a-day aspect. Where the cottage stood, leviathans of the deep, battleships and Atlantic liners, now proudly float. Thus the progress and changes of the times.

A few yards farther on and we reach the old Govan, then the Greenock, turnpike road. As we traverse this fine country road we have on either side beautiful villas surrounded by trees and some with lawns sloping down to the margin of the Clyde. (We are passing over the spot where now are berthed the Allan Line ships in the Prince's Dock). On our left, and situated between the Govan Road and the river, we pass Heathery Hall, Clyde Villa,* Cessnock Bank, Bankton—afterwards the site of Messrs. G. & J. Thomson's Clyde shipbuilding yard—and Elm Park, all gentlemen's residences. On our right we have passed Cessnock House and Nurseries (the canting basin for ocean liners spreads its deep and ample waters over the ground whereon stood the mansion-house and nurseries), West Bank, Cessnock Place,

*The late Duke of Argyll, when a student at Glasgow University in the early Victorian days, lodged in Clyde Villa.

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Three Ell Road, from Orchard Lane.

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Cessnock Park, Govan Park, New Stead Place, Haughhead House, and Clyde Haugh. Our photograph of the Plantation end of old Govan Road shows New Stead Place,* with its surrounding trees, and the perspective of that thoroughfare. We also give a pen-and-ink sketch of a curious old structure which stood adjoining Stead Place. It was known as "Paddy's Castle," from its being for long the home of various families, natives of the Green Isle. All these buildings we have described were swept away and docks constructed on their sites.

An ancient loan led from the Govan Road past Haughhead Cottage. This pleasant little residence stood in the fields just at the end of the ground now occupied by No. 2 shed, and the present car-lines, skirting the eastern boundary of the Prince's Dock, follow very nearly the line of the old loan referred to. It passed Haughhead Cottage, and in the present Harvey Street we see where it joined the Paisley Road.

Passing the loan we come to the road leading to Plantation House — described farther on — which followed the line of Maclean Street to its jointure with Craigiehall Street. We turn back and continue our ramble along the Haughhead Loan, striking the Paisley Road at Harvey Street. On all sides there extends green pasture land, with here and there isolated groups of farms or buildings surrounded by trees.

Standing at the end of Harvey Street we see, to the left of where Primrose Place is now, Plantation Cottage, a neat little edifice surrounded by a fine garden and nearly hidden by the foliage of the elms which embower it. Beyond the cottage, and on the right-hand side of the road looking towards the toll, we catch a glimpse of Park Grove House, and, farther on, Park House—situated, as their names indicate, 'mong field and foliage. Cornwall Street, Lambhill Street, Sussex Street, and Kinning Park are nought but green fields. We cannot imagine these rich pastures converted into the immense hive of humanity which to-day spreads itself over that one-time pastoral district. On the left of our vista the

* Near Stead Place stood Elm Park House, occupied by John Elder and afterwards by Sir William Pearce. The former died in that house.

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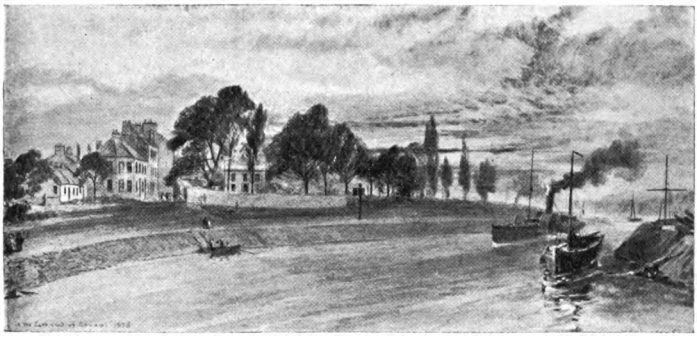
A CONTRAST.



By permission of Glasgow Corporation. *W. Simpson, R.I.*

East-End of Govan, 1876.

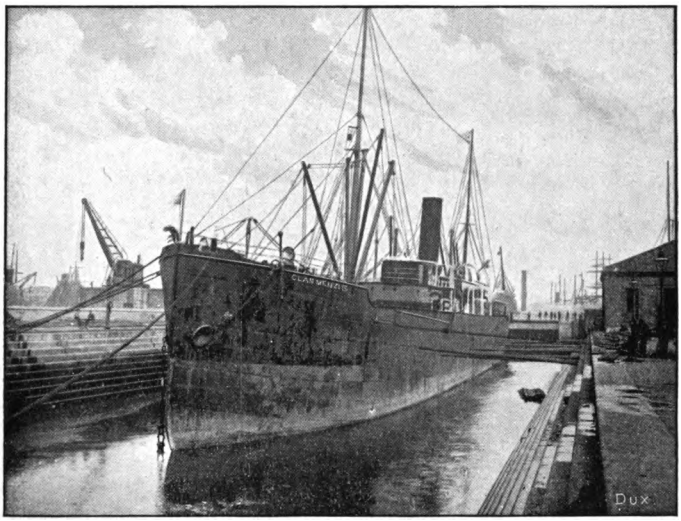


Photo lent by Dux Engraving Coy., Glasgow.

East-End of Govan, 1905.

(This Dock occupies the site of the houses in above sketch.)

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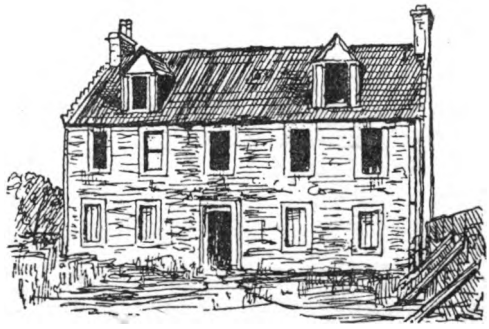
policies of Plantation House occupy the entire stretch of land from Harvey Street to the toll.

Right before us, and about half a mile across the fields from Paisley Road, there stands a comfortable-looking farmhouse—Langshot Farm, the steading of which still occupies the ground adjoining the west end of Plantation Park; and some distance beyond Langshot we catch the gleam of water showing where the canal winds its course from Glasgow to Paisley. As far as we can see there is nothing but green fields, with cattle and sheep peacefully browsing. Clifford Street, Percy Street, Gower Street, Maclellan Street, and the miles of tenements which surround Langshot and



"Paddy's Castle."
(From a photo by W. Barr, Esq., Plantation.)

extend between it and Ibroxholm, exist but in a dream of the future. We are gazing on a beautiful pastoral country, with not the faintest suggestion of "town" about it.

Turning towards Govan by way of Paisley Road, we find workmen busy erecting a fine block of houses, intended by the builder as attractive residences for the "bein" middle-class of Glasgow. This is Tulliallan Place. Some little distance farther on, the road crosses a sluggish burn by means of an old bridge, and then, immediately to our right, we come to the isolated but handsome sweep of Walmer Crescent, exclusively occupied by rich city merchants of these days. To the

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right, and about a quarter of a mile off the road, we see Middleton House standing in the midst of a wood of elm, beech, and fir—a typical gentleman's country house. The cluster of beautiful villas which form Ibroxholm is to our left as we turn down Whitefield Road, and on the same side we pass Whitefield Mansion-house. This old mansion can still be seen by the curious. It is buried in the engineering works (it serves as a store) of Messrs. Ross & Duncan, where its finely-chiselled architecture looks strangely out of place amidst the iron sheds and machinery surrounding it.

As we near the village again, over the field to our left, we see peeping out of their bowers of foliage Myrtle Cottage, Lilyvale Cottage, Albert Cottage, Victoria Cottage (now the site of Copeland Road School), Dean-park (ground now occupied by Govan Baptist Church —Dr. Coats), and just as we reach the old Govan or Greenock road, Eden Villa, surrounded by its garden and beeches (there was no Carmichael Street then), shows pleasantly on the same side. Our ramble has come to an end. Look at the routes we have described, to-day. Imagination can scarcely picture a greater change than has been wrought on that landscape within the past twenty years. Green fields, beeches, elms, hedgerows, old mansion-houses and villas have all been ruthlessly swept away. Miles of docks and railways and acres of grey barrack-like tenements have replaced the once pleasing green pasture land. Nothing has been left to recall those past days excepting here and there a lonely-looking beech or elm, which seems to have strayed, by some strange fate, into the midst of these barrack squares.

Let us list here for a moment to a writer in the earliest, or, if not the earliest, one of the first, steamboat descriptive guides of the Clyde. It is entitled, "The Steamboat Companion and Stranger's Guide to the Western Islands and Highlands of Scotland," and was published in 1820 by Messrs. James Lumsden & Sons, of Glasgow. We read:—"The 'Post Boy' steamboat leaves Glasgow every morning at six o'clock with passengers for the 'Marion,' plying on Loch Lomond, and lands them at Dumbarton, five miles from Balloch, from whence the 'Marion' starts every day at ten

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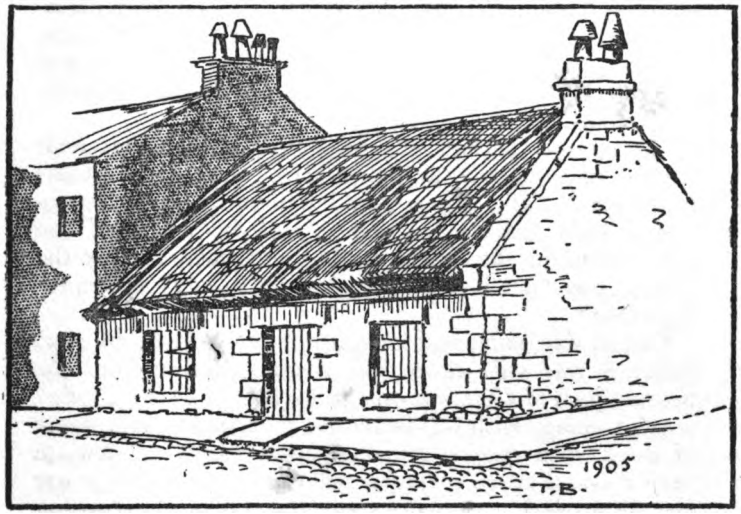
o'clock. The 'Post Boy' again takes them up, on their return to Dumbarton, at six o'clock in the evening; so that by this conveyance a stranger can leave Glasgow in the morning, visit the beautiful scenery of Loch Lomond, and be again at Glasgow in 14 hours." What would those early travellers have thought of paying a visit to London, and returning, in the same time?

Our little "Companion" describes the sail from Glasgow to Greenock, and we are told:—"The first object that comes in view is *the village of Govan, not inelegantly situated among surrounding trees;* having previously



Old Weaver's Cottage, corner Orchard Lane and Three Ell Road.

passed the Verreville Glassworks, Geddes; Finnieston Village, Stobcross; and York Hill, Gilbert. At Govan there is a regular ferry to the confluence of the Kelvin, a beautiful stream originating in the Campsie hills, and has its course diversified by various falls and windings, while its banks are adorned by numerous elegant villas, and plantations tastefully laid down. Opposite to Govan are the village and city mills of Partick, and near it the ruins of a mansion, formerly occupied by the archiepiscopal prelate of

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Glasgow, which, before the introduction of manufactures and commerce rendered the banks of the Clyde and Kelvin so populous, must have been a situation of beauty and comfort; to both of which advantages the clergy of former times were not indifferent. Proceeding along, many villas, the residences of opulence, and the efforts of industry, are to be seen on both sides of the river, and a few miles from the city the view becomes more extensive. On the right, one mile from Govan, is Broomhill, Perston; and one and a half mile farther, on the left, Linthouse, Watson; on the same side, but more distant, Shieldhall, Oswald; and on the right, also at some distance, Jordanhill, Smith; on the plain below it, about one and a half mile farther on, Scotstoun, Oswald; opposite, on the left, Braehead, M'Call; and one mile farther, Elderslie House, the elegant mansion of Spiers."

And so on to the "ancient burgh of Renfrew, near which once stood a palace of the first Stuart monarchs." The views of old Govan we have reproduced fully convey to the reader the truth of the description in this early guide, which tells us that the village was "not inelegantly situated among surrounding trees."

Govan was then, and indeed remained down to 1856 (when it was still more than a mile distant from the nearest part of Glasgow on the south side of the Clyde), a quiet village with old-fashioned thatched houses, some of them with quaint circular inside stairs. A few—a very few—of these cottages still remain, but they are fast disappearing to make room for tall and imposing "lands" of houses, and the canny weavers have now been completely ousted by the more vigorous and enterprising members of the engineering and shipbuilding trades. These last have, since 1860, caused such a rapid enlargement of the limits of Govan that it is now conterminous with Glasgow through the burgh of Kinning Park.

Communication with the city in the "forties" was of a very primitive character. In the villages of Govan and Partick there were two penny-post establishments, which transmitted letters to and from Glasgow twice a day. The post-office of Govan was in those times a

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From a photo in the possession of Wm. Barr, Esq.

The last Govan Weaver.

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very old-fashioned establishment indeed. It consisted of an antiquated single-storey thatched cottage, standing on the main street a little to the east of Hyndford Street, then a country loan. The site of this ancient postal establishment is now swallowed up in the London and Glasgow Co.'s shipbuilding yard. The old two-storied house in which the postmaster lived is still standing, however, just behind the tall tenements, and completely dwarfed by the same, which face Govan Road near Hyndford Street. From its ancient quarters the post office was removed to Harmony Row and later to Albert Street, where business was conducted until 1903, the transference to the handsome premises at the Cross taking place in that year.

There was a public conveyance "of the description now known over the whole kingdom," says a writer in 1850, "under the name of omnibuses." The Govan 'bus ran at different hours between the village and the city. On the Saturdays it started from the Cross at noon, conveying the weavers, with their webs, to Glasgow. This was the event of the week in Govan village, and quite a crowd of the inhabitants always assembled on the green at the parish school and near Moses Waddell's inn to see the departure. Much good-humoured chaff and banter was bandied about what time the 'bus-driver was rubbing down his three steeds. One of the last weavers who took his web to the city by the 'bus was Willie Farquhar,* a fine old worthy, whose Scotch pawkiness is still fondly remembered by not a few Govanites of the older school. It will be confessed that, as a type of a phase of life now for ever passed away, the photograph we give of old Willie is absolutely unique. The child who occupies the old-fashioned coach in the picture, it will interest not a few to know, is Mr. James Brown, the first to hold the position of chief electrician for the burgh. The Govan 'bus was a huge, lumbering vehicle drawn by three horses, and its antique character is well represented in the sketch.

A horse and carriage boat had been put upon the

* To the old generation of Govanites Willie was more familiarly known as "Willie Forker." Willie always wore three aprons and a red vest. He was quite a character, and for many years kept a register of the births, marriages, and deaths in Govan.

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ferry connecting the two parts of the parish where Clyde and Kelvin meet, and at this ferry all the steamboats plying on the river, with the exception of the largest class, landed and received passengers. The beautiful view of the "Water Row and Ferry," by Simpson, done in 1842, shows this old boat referred to above. As will be seen from the drawing, the ferry-boat had a level platform, suitable for taking horses across. It was wrought by a fixed chain passed over a toothed shaft, which was turned by a handspoke wheel. The view shows also the old houses which formerly stood on the left side and opposite the present Water Row buildings. To the right is seen the spire of the parish kirk, and we also get a good view of the old manse among the trees. It was taken down about 40 years since. The little solitary cottage to the right of the picture was, a century ago, occupied by a salmon fisherman, and where it stood is now the launching berth of M'Lean & Co.'s shipbuilding yard.

The life led by the villagers was quiet and typical of the average Scottish township existence. Govan was probably better off than the majority. The inhabitants enjoyed the benefits of a circulating library, the volumes in which totalled the modest number of 600, these being lent out to the parishioners on the payment of 6d. quarterly. This library was founded by the widow of the Rev. William Thom, who was minister of Govan from 1746 to 1791. Mr. Thom was an active and vigorous minister, endowed with a keen wit, and became popular, notwithstanding a considerable amount of feeling caused by a dispute about his settlement. "Thom's Library," as it was known to the old Govanites, ceased to exist about 1884, and the books are now housed—or as many as are left of them—in the Parish Church Halls.*

There was a Govan agency of the National Security Savings Bank of Glasgow founded in 1839, and after only one year of its existence the number of deposits amounted to 1356, representing a sum of £1191 6s. 9d., and the interest added to the accounts or paid to depositors came to £22 5s. 8d. Of the deposits, 586 were only 1s. each, and 457, on an average, 3s. each,

* For some interesting notes *re* Thom's Library, see last chapter.

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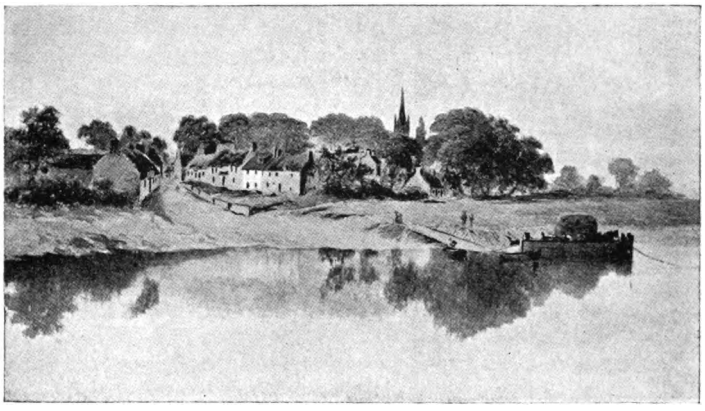
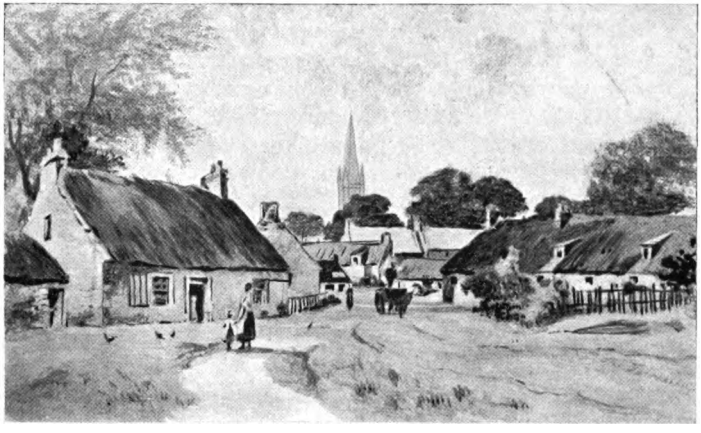


W. Simpson, R.I.

Water Row, 1842.

(Showing the Manse among trees and first Vehicular Ferry-Boat.)



By permission of Glasgow Corporation. *T. Fairbairn, R.S.W.*

Harmony Row and Kittle Corner, 1848.

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which affords a very good idea of the thrifty habits of those early Victorian Govanites, despite their alleged penchant for "white wine." The village religious life was also an active one (we are speaking of the years betwixt 1845 and 1855), the Govan and Partick Home Missionary Society prosecuting useful work. The income of the society in 1838 was £54 1s. 6d. There were thirteen Sabbath school teachers connected with it, and it also furnished small libraries for the use of the children, circulated approved religious tracts, and provided a part of the salary of the missionary of Strathbungo. In the course of 1839 £44 11s. 6d. was collected at the door of Govan kirk for the behoof of the General Assembly; and for the use of the poor the sum collected that year amounted to the respectable total—if we consider the wages the villagers received in those days —of £64 15s. 9½d.

The village was a model one in many respects; but we find the usual fly in the ointment. Touching on the vexed subject of drink, Dr. Leishman remarks, in 1840, that the "inns and alehouses (there were 21) are so numerous as to form a great moral nuisance." He adds, "Their pestiferous effects on the health and virtuous habits of the people are only too apparent." List to the good old doctor's description of the Clyde at Govan:—"The shallowness of the Clyde not many years ago will appear almost incredible to those who *now see ships of 600 tons burthen* proceeding majestically up that river, and depositing in the storehouses of Glasgow the cargoes which they bring from the most remote parts of the world." Thus 1840. Changes indeed! Within half a century of when these words were penned describing the "majestic sailing" of the ships of 600 tons burthen, there passed over the same spot leviathans of the deep of five, eight, ten, twelve, and sixteen thousand tons burthen! "Almost incredible" were the 600-ton vessels to the worthy doctor; his imagination, had such things been suggested, would have relegated these monsters of to-day to the regions of the impossible.

When this account of Dr. Leishman's was written—1840—the village of Govan was still a picturesque and, despite its proximity to the city, delightfully rural

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spot. In those days, several old Glaswegians have informed me, it was the regular Saturday afternoon walk to go the length of Govan when work had finished in the city—a turn "down to the village of Govan," a glass o' sparkling ale, and a crack, then home to Glasgow in the gloamin'. We have only to glance at the sketches of "the Clyde at Govan," reproduced herein, to get a grasp of the mighty change in the landscape wrought during this last half century. Judging by these "bits," Govan must indeed have been a favourite haunting-ground for the artist in search of the picturesque during the early "forties." So great a master as Sam Bough has used his facile brush in perpetuating the beauties of the old village of Govan, his delightful water-colour hung in the Glasgow Art Galleries, and here reproduced, serving to recall to life again the vanished scenes. William Simpson, David Small, and Fairbairn also found inspiration in and around our old village, as their sketches alongside of Sam Bough's reveal. That genial rambler, Hugh Macdonald, gives us a pleasing pen-picture of the village in 1851. List to him for a moment.

"The village of Govan," says Hugh, "like most other old townships, is a long, straggling congregation of houses, having been permitted, apparently, to hing as it grew, each individual proprietor biggin' where it pleased himself, and without the most distant regard for the opinion or regard of his neighbour. It is, in fact, the most curious and eccentric little townie that we know, and always wears, to our fancy, a kind of half-fou aspect. At two places, the Pointhouse and the Ferry, it comes rambling down towards the river; but, as if startled at its own temerity, it staggers rapidly away back, zigzagging into nondescript lanes and wynds, the irregularity of which would break the heart of any individual whose bump of order had an extraordinary degree of development. It has a predominance of thatched houses, too, as if, in its sturdy independence, it was determined to retain its straw bonnet in defiance of the innovating slate. Altogether, Govan has a genuine old-world look which is perfectly unique in these days of improvement and change, and which forms a not unpleasing contrast to the stiff, though

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stately, angularity of our own somewhat overgrown town." ("Glasgow.") Thus 1851. The previous Government census, in 1841, gives us the following statistics regarding the village and its inhabitants. It is interesting to observe that the village only boasted of one foreigner.

(From the Government Census of 1841.)

1841.	Number of				Born in				
Govan Village.	Families.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	The County.	Other Scottish Counties.	England.	Ireland.	Foreign Parts.
	483	2,556	1,237	1,319	1,787	630	29	109	1

The village was at that period mainly a small, compact cluster of cottages, with hardly a two-storey building among them. It extended close by the Clydeside from the present Cross—the ancient Water Row—to a point nearly opposite Whitefield Road. In those days the Govan Road was known as the Greenock turnpike road. It was to all intents and purposes a country loan running along the outskirts of a village; Govan being contained within the small nook formed by the bend of the river (now straightened) from a point east of the present Highland Lane ferry to the horse ferry. The main and only street ran in crescent shape from one end to the other, having its outlet at each extremity, where it joined the Govan or Renfrew Road. The original "join" is to be seen just at Messrs. Mackie & Thomson's shipbuilding yard, and at this point a few of the old cottages of Govan village still stand. What is now an auctioneer's premises—that old two-storied house adjoining the above-mentioned shipbuilding yard gate—was, in those times, "The Sheep Head" Inn. It was, many years previous to the time we are writing of, however, of only one storey and thatched. A scrutiny of the gable-end facing Hillock

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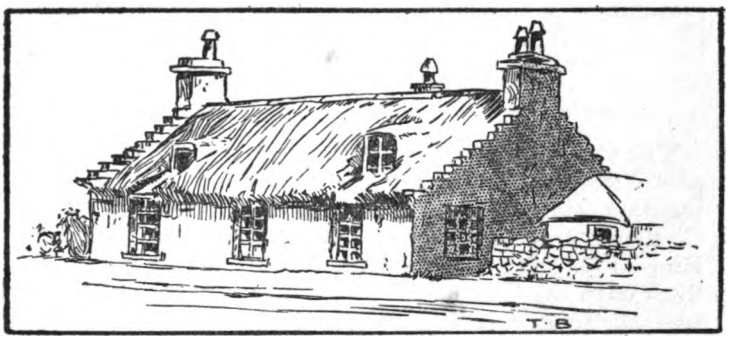
House reveals the old single-storey building, the original stones of the cottage gable showing up dark and worn against the somewhat more modern additions. The only exception to the compactness of old Govan here referred to, as our map of the village in 1860 shows, were a few scattered houses in Langlands Road, Harmony Row, and at Govandale, facing the auld kirk. These cottages (of which we give a delightful view from a water-colour by Fairbairn, done in 1849) were occupied by weavers with a strong penchant for gardening. Every house was possessed of a goodly stretch of kail-yaird at the back and a small plot in front. Keen was the rivalry among the occupants in the cultivation of flowers and fruit. Each cottage formed a picture in



Old house, corner Shaw Street and Govan Road (about 1894).

itself, being embowered in green creeper, rose-bushes, and many other sweet-smelling flowers. Their picturesque appearance is well rendered by Fairbairn in his sketch, which vividly recalls a phase of old Govan, now, alas, vanished. Regarding the fruit cultivation, the cottagers of Harmony Row—it warranted the cognomen in those times, as Fairbairn's charming picture tells us—had more than a local reputation for their gooseberries, and it was quite in the order of things for the Glasgow rambler to hie Govanwards on the Saturday afternoon, his objective being—a feast of grosets!

Up till the close of last century there stood a very old thatched house at the corner of Shaw Street and Govan Road. The march of improvement in the form of

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tenement building swept it out of existence about half a dozen years ago, and the quaint-looking structure gave place to the modern residential barrack. It was one of the most ancient houses in Govan, dating from the early years of the eighteenth century, 1711. Some thirty years ago the appearance of the Govan Road, where this cottage stood, was that of a pleasant country loan. Mr. Main's fine sketch of the Govan Road, with a flock of sheep and the old cottage we refer to, conveys a sense of peaceful country life that is perfectly charming. To fully realise the great change that has taken place in this part of the burgh, let anyone stand at the Lyceum Theatre and look eastwards to Shaw Street and compare this present-day view with Mr. Main's picture. It were well nigh impossible to conceive a greater revolution in landscape than such a contrast presents. In this ancient house at Shaw Street hand-loom weaving was carried on for many years. Latterly it was known as "Miss Napier's Cottage." Not far from here stood the cottage occupied by Mr. Galt, the builder of the well-remembered "Galt's Land," and also of the handsome St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Chapel, St. Mary's Free and Copland Road U.P. churches.

Adjacent to the old Shaw Street house there stood a species of "square," affectionately remembered by the Govanite as "The Kittle Corner." It was for many long years the favourite rendezvous and gathering-place for the worthies of these bygone days. To weather this corner was, in more ways than one, a somewhat "kittle" undertaking, what with the devious path and the wordy fire of its frequenters—hence the appellation. Another devious corner bearing the suggestive title "The Deil's Elbow" was also near by. A neighbouring cottage was occupied by the old village dominie, Mr. William Fulton, who long controlled the parish school at the Cross. Through his hands passed many generations of the youth of the district, and the memory of the fine old dominie is still cherished by not a few of the older inhabitants of our burgh. He also fulfilled the duties of registrar, and was in his day widely known and highly respected. Coming westwards, a small group of cottages, bearing the somewhat curious title of Oakum Bay, reared their quaint faces to the Govan

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Road. Our sketch displays the old-world character of these buildings in an excellent manner. Their site is now occupied by the statue of Sir William Pearce. The cognomen "Oakum Bay" originated in the fertile brain of an old salt who had fought under Nelson at the Nile—over a century ago now—and who spent the declining years of his life in one of the cottages which formed that group.

The residenters in this little hamlet we have described were known as the "west-enders"; those who dwelt from the Cross to Whitefield Road went by the cognomen of "east-enders." A good deal of what might be termed a mild jealousy existed between these two sections of the community. This feeling found a vent principally in the relative modes of expression. The folks who dwelt in the "west end" spoke in a patronising manner of their neighbours in "the ither end o' the toon, puir buddies." This, to the proud-spirited "east-enders," was as gall, and the retort, "It's jist thae wad-be gairdner cratters wast o' the Cross," afforded keen satisfaction to the speaker, while proving very aggravating to the west-end residenters.

Life then was more parochial, and had little of the broader, or imperial, spirit. Naturally, the mutual jealousy existing between the elders of the respective communities found a different and decidedly more forcible mode of expression among the youngsters. These latter met on a somewhat debatable land at the Cross Parish School. For the nonce their little feuds were buried, but no sooner was school over than the clans drew away from each other. A few "names," perhaps a bit o' divot deftly thrown, and what one who oftimes participated in these affairs described to the writer as a first-class row, ensued. These bickers were of frequent occurrence, and it was by no means uncommon for the elders to be finally embroiled. Many fierce struggles betwixt the east and west end have occurred round and about the Cross in days long gone by. The generations to whom these affairs were as the salt of life have mostly all passed away or have left the district.

To many an old Govanite, however, be he 'mong the snows of Canada or on the burning plains of India

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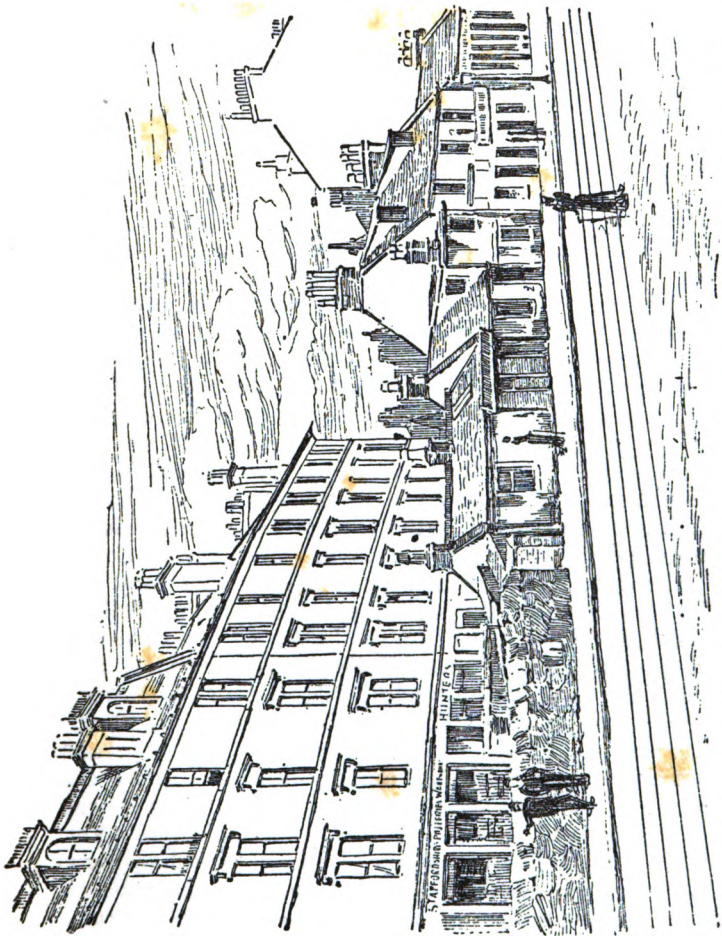

[*From a picture in the possession of Andrew Cossar, Esq.*

Govan Road, opposite Pearce Memorial.

(The Pearce Statue stands on the site of these old cottages.)

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(and you'll find them in both spheres), the memories of these old-time "fechts" will come as a refreshing draught. They will recall to him the joyous morning of life, the old village, the little cottage with its garden and its flowers, the faces of dear friends long since crossed the bourne. He had better cherish those memories. His old school, the cottage, the garden, have been swept away. The tenement has usurped all, and a new race, caring nought for these memories, has taken possession.

Glancing again at the sketch of the Govan Road, with its flock of sheep, there is to be seen on the right-hand side what are apparently an entrance gate and lodge. These were to the old mansion occupied by the Pollocks. A scion of this family it was who founded the silk mill in Govan—the first to be erected in Scotland; while from the same family also came the first provost of Govan—Mr. Morris Pollock. When in the course of building operations some years ago the gates were taken down, the stone pillars were purchased by Mr. Wilson, of Maryville, who was wishful of preserving these memorials of old Govan. He had them erected at the entrance to his Ibroxholm house, where they are still to be seen performing a similar duty to that which for so many years they fulfilled on the old Govan Road entrance to the Pollock mansion. For many years the lodge at the gate was occupied by Mr. William Rellie, builder, who is now one of the fast-evanishing "old brigade" of Govanites.

Very few houses of old Govan village remain. Their sites are, to a great extent, usurped by the Clyde and its harbour works, such as the dry-docks; and by the acres of tenements built for the accommodation of the large shipbuilding and engineering population. Yet, within the memory of many of the older inhabitants, Govan village was fully occupied, and the busy modern street bearing the name of Govan Road had not sprung into existence. As has been remarked before, it was then known as the Greenock turnpike road. Hedgerows bordered it, and the village lay betwixt it and the Clyde. Miles of green, smiling fields stretched inland. The first tenements to break this pastoral were Alma Street (1858), and Victoria and Albert Streets a few

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From a picture in the possession of Jas. Wilson, Esq., Maryville.

Govan Road near the Lyceum Theatre, 1870.

(Showing old cottage at corner of Shaw Street and entrance gates to Morris Pollok's House.)

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years subsequently. By no means salubrious residential quarters nowadays, they formed, in these early years, the aristocratic quarters of Govan. The man who rented a house there was "somebody." Prosperous times, however, led to extensive building, and densely-populated streets have taken the place of the green fields—truly a sorry substitute, considered esthetically.

The village life by 1850 had changed for the better, but a still mightier change was looming ahead as yet unsuspected by the simple villager. Within the next ten years the foundations of that immense shipbuilding and engineering enterprise which has made the Clyde famous all over the world were to be laid in Govan. Robert Napier and John Elder were already at work, their giant minds effecting revolutions in shipbuilding undreamt of in its history up to that time. By 1845 R. Napier & Sons had thoroughly established the industry in Govan, and a new order of things had arisen in the village. The clang of the hammer drowned the hum of the weaver's shuttle, and in a few years "the iron king" absorbed all that was assimilable of old Govan, and crushed the remainder out of existence. In 1864 the village assumed the dignity appertaining to a burgh, and bade farewell, for ever, to its old-world government, to its weavers, and to its salmon fishers. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

Note.—The first building of the beautiful Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Anthony, referred to at page 127, was erected in 1864; rebuilt 1878. The rectory was built in 1892. St. Mary's Free Church, also alluded to on the same page, was built in 1872-73.

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CHAPTER XI.

PLANTATION—THE OLD ESTATES—ORIGIN OF NAME—OWNERS OF THE LANDS—CESSNOCK HOUSE—HISTORIC MEMORIES—JOANNA BAILLIE AND SIR DAVID WILKIE—RISE IN LAND VALUE—STREET NOMENCLATURE.

Before leaving the story of historic Govan, it were well to devote some space to that portion of the burgh known as Plantation. Although of comparatively recent growth, this intensely modern and work-a-day district possesses a history containing not a little of the romance of life, and well worthy, in these materialistic times, of being carefully preserved. It is not so long ago since that densely-populated, grey-tenemented miles of streets was a rural and picturesque bit of country, with an old mansion-house, embowered in ash, elm, and oak — Plantation House — forming a charming centrepiece to the scene. The march of commerce and the speculative builder have each contributed to sweep the handiwork of nature away, leaving their own impress —a sorry substitute!

The lands of Plantation include three separate estates, namely, Craigiehall (which was the largest, and the land was known by that name until 1783), Miln Park, Sleads, and Knolls, extending altogether to about 80 acres. The northern boundary of the estate was the river Clyde, the southern the Paisley Canal (now the G. & S.-W. Railway), the eastern the lands of Park House, and the western the lands of Bellahouston and Haughhead. They were probably put into shape about the year 1701, as a stone bearing that date was taken from the original building at a later period and inserted in the wall on the Govan Road opposite where the old mansion-house stood. In the year 1783 Mr. John Robertson, merchant in Glasgow, purchased the estate, upon which there was then a small dwelling-house—

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probably that erected in 1701. This gentleman was the proprietor of several sugar and cotton plantations in the West Indies, and he named his acquisition Plantation, which name it retained.

This old Glasgow merchant would seem to have been of an enterprising turn of mind. For many years he was cashier of the "Glasgow Arms Bank"; he was also a partner in the Smithfield Company, which, established in 1734, was conducted by his descendants till about 1850; he had a slitting and rolling mill at the mouth of the Kelvin, and owned a cluster of houses at the "Pointhouse," while he established the first regular ferry at the Kelvin mouth across to Govan. In Glasgow his warehouse stood on the Broomielaw, a short distance west of Jamaica Street, and the present Robertson Street was carried through his property, taking its name from him, so that this merchant prince of bygone days has left a quiet but indelible impress on the place-names of Glasgow and Govan.

Plantation, in 1793, was sold to John Mair. John Mair was a Paisley mason, who had a miraculous escape while at work in that town. The story says he fell from a building and was saved from death by clutching a jutting-out stone. In gratitude to the stone, he had it preserved and taken to his estate, where it occupied an honoured and prominent position. Rumour among the old Govan weavers said the stone in question surmounted the grave in which Mr. Mair was to lie, but this was not so. On the old gentleman's death in 1824 he was buried in the then rural kirkyaird o' Govan, and the stone removed from the garden of Plantation House some years after by the late Mr. Joseph Maclean, a son of Mr. William Maclean, who purchased the property, and re-built into his house of Craigiehall, near Bellahouston, where it was known as the "Mair Remembrance Stone"!

Bellahouston House.

The estate of Plantation, as we have seen, was purchased from the Mair family in 1829 by William

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Maclean, merchant, Glasgow. Mr. Maclean was a native of that city, and commenced business there as a dyer and manufacturer in 1810. In 1828 he was deacon-convener of the Trades House, and in 1830 and 1831 he was one of the city magistrates, and afterwards served in the Council for a considerable period. After an absence of some years, he again returned to the Council, and remained there from 1847 till 1864, when he retired in consequence of advancing age, being then 81.

Mr. Maclean was a far-sighted business man. When Plantation estate came into the market in 1828 he was deacon-convener of the Trades House. The selling price was only £15,000, and he strongly advised its purchase. Despite his arguments, in which he pointed out the great commercial and monetary advantages likely to accrue to the Trades House from its purchase, his advice was not accepted, and, as stated before, he finally bought it himself. His wisdom was justified. For a very small portion of the lands the G. & S.-W. Railway Company paid him £30,000 — twice the purchase price of the whole estate. He received nearly as much from the Clyde Trustees for a strip of the estate adjoining the river. These latter years the whole of Plantation lands have been built over, and old William Maclean's investment has proved a perfect gold mine to the family. Mr. Maclean died in February, 1867.

During his proprietorship of the estate the spread of the city in that direction induced considerable changes. The G. & S.-W. Railway Company passed through it in 1839. In 1847 the Clyde Trustees bought a portion, extending to about 30,000 yards, which is now partly included in the bed of the river and partly in wharves alongside. The first street formed at the eastern end of the estate was named Mair Street, and Craigiehall Street followed shortly afterwards. The estate is now known as the Plantation district of Govan burgh, and the property is still, to a great extent, in the possession of the Maclean family.

Adjoining Plantation, and lying betwixt its mansion-house and what is now the Govan dry-docks, was the estate of Cessnock. Its history is interesting, the old house being fragrant with the memory of not a few names endeared to Scotsmen all the world over. In

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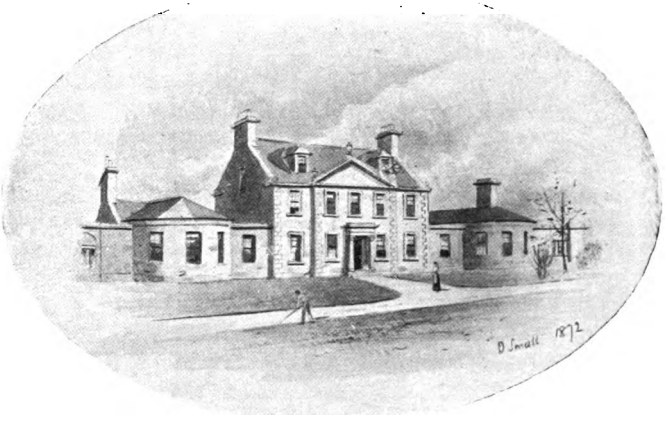

By permission of Glasgow Corporation.

Plantation House, 1872.

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1800 Andrew Hunter, manufacturer in Glasgow, bought from Dorothea Rowan—the scion of the old Govan family—eleven acres of the lands of Heathriehall, called Cessnock, upon which he erected the mansion of Cessnock. This old Glasgow manufacturer and his brother William were closely related to the brothers John and William Hunter, whose names will ever be associated and remembered as the founders of the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, and the Museum of the College of Surgeons in London—worthy monuments to the energy, ability, and enterprise of these two pioneers of science.

They were frequent visitors, and welcome, for many long years at Cessnock House, as was also another, and probably dearer, name to Scotland, Joanna Baillie, the sweet and simple songstress, who preserves in many of her pieces the exquisite pathos, felicity, and pawkiness of the best traditions of Scottish song. She was full cousin to Andrew and William Hunter, the builders of Cessnock, and doubtless many a time and oft wooed the muses 'mong the grassy glades in which the house was situate—now, alas, no more. In 1816, William Hunter, of Greenhead, in the parish, who served as surgeon in the Coldstream Guards through the Waterloo campaign, married Ellen, the sister of Sir David Wilkie, the celebrated Scottish artist, and Cessnock House thus became the favourite rendezvous of theirs, while the famous artist also partook on many occasions of the hospitality of its genial owner.

The memory of that brilliant coterie is one to be revered, and ever to be kept green, by those who love the traditions of bygone Govan. It is interesting to mention that Surgeon-Major Hunter was one of the last Waterloo men connected with Glasgow, and he is still remembered by a few of the older generation. In 1868 Cessnock House passed from the Hunter family, being sold to Mr. John Robertson, manufacturer in Glasgow, who re-sold it to the Clyde Trustees. For a time it was used as a Home for boys by Mr. Quarrier, and until its demolition, on the formation of Cessnock Dock, was inhabited by various families. These two properties afford an excellent illustration of the rise in the value of land in the neighbourhood of Glasgow

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within the past century. The estate of Plantation was bought in 1829 by William Maclean for £15,000, while to-day it is worth something over £300,000. Andrew Hunter gave £1800 for Cessnock in 1800; in 1830 it was exposed for sale at the upset price of £3800; in 1868 it was sold for £12,000, and in 1870 for £26,000. Moore Park, a property of 37 acres, lying between the Govan and Paisley Roads, was purchased so late as 1822 for £6500. Less than half of it—about 16 acres—was sold in the "seventies" to the G. & S.-W. Railway Company for £30,000.

The opening years of last century saw these two mansion-houses standing in the midst of beautiful green fields. Govan was then a row of "buts and bens," the abode of weavers and fishermen who spread their nets and fished of a summer's eve for trout and salmon on the banks of the Clyde, near the old Water Row. The site of Cessnock House is now a broad sheet of water—Cessnock Dock—whereon float leviathans of the deep, and what was, within the memory of those still living, a pleasantly-wooded scene surrounding the house is now a coal-lye! Of Plantation House naught remains but a fading memory. What grassy knowes and leafy wood then existed have gone like the baseless fabric of a vision.

As has been already pointed out, the lands of Plantation were known up till 1783 as Craigiehall, when John Robertson, who had sugar and cotton plantations in the West Indies, became proprietor and changed the name to Plantation. In 1793 John Mair, a native of Paisley, became proprietor. He died in 1824, and Plantation was next held by William Maclean, who got possession in 1828.

The following derivations of the street nomenclature of Plantation are of considerable interest:—

Blackburn Street was so named after the Midland town of that name by one of the trustees of Mr. Maclean, because he had business connections with it.

Cornwall Street was named after a relative of Mrs. Maclean, wife of the first proprietor of that name.

Craigiehall Street was the name of the greater part of the Plantation estate, on which this street is formed, previous to its acquisition by Mr. Robertson in 1783.

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Eaglesham Street, named after the village in Renfrewshire, where the paternal ancestors of the present proprietor of Plantation had been engaged in cotton-spinning, they having been proprietors of the factory there in the palmy days of the trade.

Harvey Street, from the christian name of Harvey Brand, who was proprietor of the ground on which it was formed.

Lambhill Street was so called out of compliment to the late William Graham of Lambhill, he having been one of the trustees of Mr. Maclean, proprietor of the estate.

Maclean Street perpetuates the name of William Maclean, who acquired Plantation estate in 1828.

Mair Street, after John Mair, who bought Plantation lands in 1793.

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CHAPTER XII.

THE GOVAN WEAVERS' SOCIETY—ITS CHARTER—AUGUST 1756—THE ANCIENT MINUTE BOOK—INAUGURAL MEETING — QUAINT AND CURIOUS ENTRIES—THE FIRST ADMISSION OF MEMBERS—THE VILLAGE CRIER—AN HISTORIC MEETING—THE SOCIETY DISSOLVED—LOAN TO THE GOVAN COMMISSIONERS—RELICS—THE SHEEP'S HEAD—LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS SINCE 1756.

The only link with the old village life of Govan left to us is the ancient Weavers' Society. Its original rules, its charter, and its minute books are all reminiscent of other times, of the days when the staple industry of the district was the weaving "mystery" (as it was then called), days when if a man could produce his indentures as a journeyman weaver he vied in position and respectability with members of the learned societies of the time.

The Govan Weavers' Society was constituted into a "Community," as it was termed, on the 30th day of August, 1756. At that period the village of Govan occupied a foremost position, due to the wealth and intelligence of its weavers. The very fact of the inhabitants being, for the most part, "bonnet lairds," or small landed proprietors, fitted them all the better for assuming the position of master weavers, each employing a number of apprentices and journeymen, whom they boarded and lodged in their cottages. Hand-loom weaving being then in its zenith, and steam power, so far as textile manufactures were concerned, undreamt of, the master weavers of Govan were men of importance and standing, were, indeed, the aristocrats of trade. The inception of the society illustrates this. From all parts of the West of Scotland brethren of the craft and other trades flocked to Govan and enrolled

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themselves. The society became a most powerful guild, presided over by a deacon.

The position of deacon was the highest honour the villagers could confer upon a member of the Community, and from 1756 until at least the "forties" of last century his was the final judgment in all matters of local dispute. The rules for the election of the deacon and his subordinates on the master court were of a very stringent democratic character, while no man was eligible for membership unless he was the son or the son-in-law of a member, or could show his indentures as a journeyman weaver. Aiding members when in distress by donations or allowances was the object of the society, and this, the old minute book tells, it worthily fulfilled.

Let us glance at the entries in this ancient minute book. The very first entry—not minute—is the "Acts and Proceedings of the Associate Society of Weavers in Meiklegovan who first constitute themselves into a community the therty day of August seventeen hundred and fiftie six years." Note the mainer of spelling the name of the village—Meiklegovan. This joining of the two words Meikle Govan into one is employed in all the entries of the society up to and including the year 1797. It is interesting to find that in 1798 for the first time the name Govan as we know it to-day is written the entry, running —"At Govan the first day of June one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight years," etc., and we do not find Meiklegovan again employed. The continued use of the word and the manner of spelling is evidence of the fact that the village must have been in these days known and spoken of by every one as Meiklegovan. For what reason the "Meikle" was dropped there is nothing in the entries to show. We may assume, however, that the why and wherefore was that by 1798 "Little Govan," at the Stockwell, had become merged

Original Arms, Weavers' Society.

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in Glasgow City and its identity lost. There would thus be no need of the distinguishing prefix "Meikle," and henceforth "Govan" became, as it had been centuries before, the place-name of the old village. However, it is interesting to record that for the long term of 42 years—1756-1798—"Meiklegovan" was the name by which the village was distinguished in the minute books of this old society.

The first minute is dated, "Att Meiklegovan the third day of September seventeen hundred and fiftie six years." This was the inaugural meeting of the Govan Weavers' Society, and the minute proceeds to tell us that "The said day the Society of Weavers, mett for the election of an Oversman, and the vote being stated continue Hugh Rowan in the place of Oversman or Preses for the ensuing year; and it carried by a great majority continue, and so the said Hugh Rowan is declared Oversman for the ensuing year, who accepted and gave his oath de fideli, as use is." We have in this Hugh Rowan a scion of one of the oldest Govan families, a family the members of which, for many centuries, and up until a few years ago, were identified strongly with the social life of the district. The original form of the name was Rolland, and we find that on 14th June, 1520, "Jhone Rolland, zounger," is rentalled in "a vi s. iij d. land of Govane." A century later we have "Stephen Rowan, younger, portioner of west end of Meikle Govan." Further information regarding this old family will be found elsewhere in the volume.

Reverting to our "first minute," we learn (see *facsimile* plate) that Robert Rowan, weaver—the Rowans practically constituted a clan in old Govan — was appointed "colector" for the year, and Archibald Hunter, Andrew Hill, William Neill, and John Lochead were chosen by the preses as his "masters," the society also appointing to the same position William Lochead, Robert Baird, William Gemmil, Alexander Lyon, weavers. The parish schoolmaster, John Belch, was elected clerk, and held that onerous position till 1759, his salary being "ten shillings and sixpence sterling" per annum. This original minute is in old Dominie Belch's hand o' write, and, as the illustration

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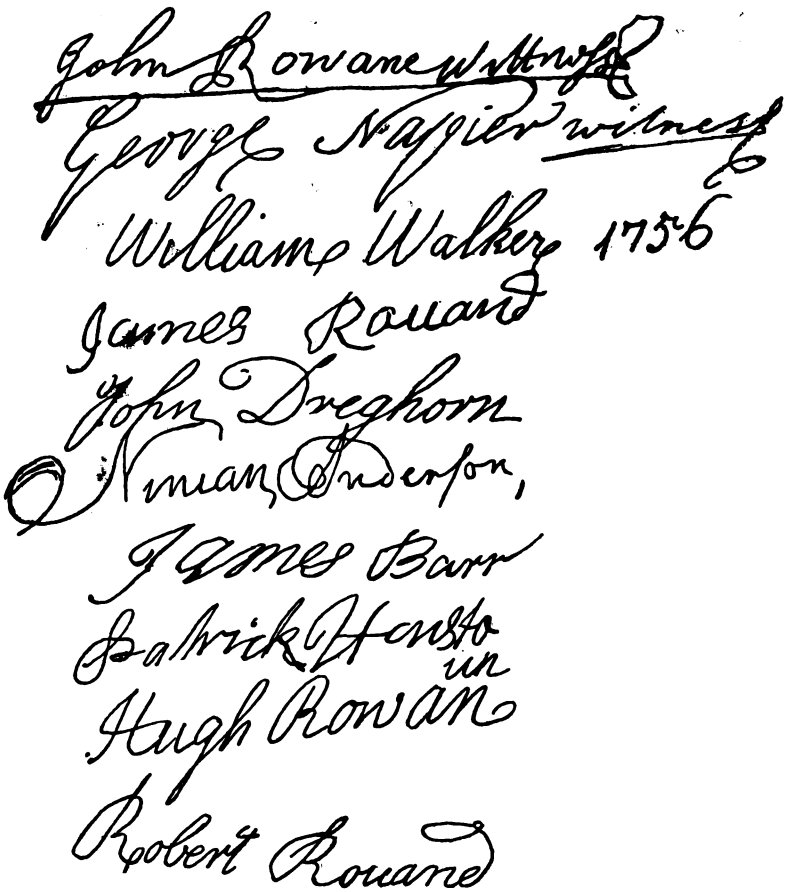

Facsimile Signatures of Old Weavers, 1756.
(From the original charter.)

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reveals, a very solid, clear, and characteristic "fist" it is. Robert Hosie, senior, was the first officer, and his annual fee was "five shillings sterling." This concludes the first minute.

A quaint and curious entry is the one immediately following the above minute. It records the first money transaction, and it occurred exactly a week after the formation of the society. Apparently a gentleman from London, but a native of Govan, or, at least, related to a native of Govan, had visited the village, and had interested himself in the formation of the Weavers' Society. The minute, which is dated September 10, 1756, runs thus:—"In presence of the Oversman and Some of the Masters Mr. Archibald Campbell, Merch^{t} in London, gave in twenty two Shillings Sterling to be Deposited in the Box for the Us and behove of Hendry Lochead, Son to William Lochead, weaver in Meiklegovan, and to be given out together with the ordinary interest As Soon As the Nearest friends of the said Henry Lochead Shall require it or it Shall be judged necesary either for the Support of the Said Hendry or toward the Discharging the expences of his funeral." A truly quaint gift and quaintly phrased by our old dominie. Let us hope that "the said Hendry" experienced a due measure of thankfulness and comfort in the thought that, come what may, good fortune or bad fortune, the money was provided for "the discharging the expenses of his funeral."

Let us glance at a few more of the early entries before proceeding with the general history of the society. Old Dominie Belch demitted the office of clerk on the sixth day of June, 1760, and "Att Meiklegovan the third day of Septem^{r}," 1760, "John Maxwell, writer in Glasgaw, was elected." Large-hearted, indeed, were these old weavers, as is evinced by the entry on June 2, 1769—"Unanimously enacted that the Widows and familys of deceased members, if in indigent circumstances, shall be entitled to supply from this Society in the discretion of the Deacon, Masters, and Collectors."

We will pause for a moment at the entry of 10th June, 1774. It runs—"Same Day the Society unanimously choose John Scot, weaver in Govan, James

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Rowan at Holmfauldhead, John Rowan of Green, and William Neill, sen^r^, weaver, Govan, as a Committee to act along with the present Deacon and Masters anent Byrkmire's affair, whose determination shall be final." According to the old copy of caption and charge (still extant), on the eighth day of March, 1775, "Robert Birkmire, sometime merchant in Paisley, now residing at Potterhill; George Birkmire, merchant; and John Houston, wright in Paisley, were order by Discernment Rebels, and put to the Horn in virtue of letters of Horning," raised by the Govan Weavers' Society. The society wanted payment of "sixty pounds sterling, being money and property belonging to the said society," which had apparently been lent to the three men named. Hence the reason for the appointment of the "committee on Byrkmire's affair." Listen to the messenger-at-arms on the subject:—

"I, James Park, Messenger, by Virtue of Letters of Caption dated and signed at Edinburgh the fifteenth day of March curant, of which the preceding page (the foregoing quotations are from that page) is a full double to the will raised at the instance of the therein Designeds John Sillars and Robert Wright in His Majesty's Name and authority, command and charge the Bailies of the Brugh of Paisley and you James Ritchie, Keeper of the Tolbooth thereof, to keep and detain the persons of the also designed George Birkmire and John Houston therein, upon their own proper charges and expenses ay and while they have fulfilled and obeyed the charge of our Letters of Horning therein mentioned. This I do upon the Tuenty Third day of March Seventeen hundred and Seventy five years. Before these witnesses—John Chisholm, Indweller in Paisley, and William Miller, Indweller in Paisley.—James Park."

The "affair of Byrkmire" is not again mentioned in the minutes, so we may suppose the society received full satisfaction from their letters of horning.

Interesting and suggestive of the "good old days" is the minute "Att Meiklegovan the sixth day of June," 1783. The entry goes thus:—"Twenty one solgers attending the Parad. The Best Parad ever appeared in this place. The masters also thought proper to keep

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a free Table on that day for the strangers that choosed to parad." There is a delightful old-world ring about that entry. Let us glance a little further at this "free table" business. The old and new masters also thought proper to attend to their necessities, as on the same day they held what was called the "Preses' Dinner." We find it enacted in 1785—third day of June, "Att Meiklegovan"—"If any of they old or late Masters cannot attend at the Preses' Dinner he shall be liable to pay only one Shilling. But the late Preses, although Absent, shall pay equal to any of the New Masters."

Subsequent entries cast an interesting sidelight on the "Preses' Dinner." We may take it that the said dinner was a rollicking affair; hearty, solid beef and fresh-drawn salmon, washed down with copious draughts of Davie Dreghorn's ale and "white wine." A very old Govanite informs me that his mother, when a girl in the early years of last century, used, along with her companions, always to come down to the Point-house (she resided in Partick) on Govan Fair Day "tae see the weavers ploys on the green." Games of all sorts were indulged in and dancing by the lads and lasses on the village green, while their elders sat on benches placed outside the hostelry. Doubtless many of the old worthies, bless their memories, would drink not wisely but too well, and as e'enin'crept in, the village would ring to the rattling chorus of some old-time rebellious Jacobite air, offending, doubtless, the powers that were. Be that as it may, an entry of 1802 suggests "the roarin' fou and unca happy" weaver, and the hand of the unca guid is writ large in the minute of the fourth day of June in that year:—"The said day it was unanimously enacted that for the future there shall be no entertainment given by the Preses to the other managers *excepting a glass of Spirits at the door, if he pleases.*"*

Widows appear to have been carefully looked after—morally as well as financially—by these old weavers. Financially, as the records show, the society were helpful indeed to the "puir widow." Let us take but

* In modern times this practice has developed into rather a pretentious function. After his election, the deacon invites the members of the society to a cake and wine banquet.

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one page of the society's cash-book. Here, in 1794, we have, from June to November, "Widow Gray, Widow Muir, Widow Russel, Widow Ritchie, Widow Gibson, Widow Campbell, Widow Buchanan, Widow Ferrier," all in receipt of sums ranging from 12s. to £1 12s., and such entries occur at nearly every page, speaking well for the kind-hearted spirit pervading the society. Although long before the days when Tony Weller gave Sam the benefit of his experience in the sage advice, "Sammy, beware of widders," the Govan weavers must have had their doots on that delicate subject. Hist to the united wisdom of the society on "widders" in June, 1785:—"The Widow of no member who does not reside with her Husband should be entitled to no charity after her Husband's death from the funds of the Society." In August, 1804, it is further enacted that "Any widow cohabiting with those to whom they are not married are hereby struck off from any legal right to the funds of the Society." Very good indeed, and primary evidence of the moral standard which the old weaver endeavoured to establish; doubtless as difficult a task in those as in more modern and, presumably, more refined days.

The roll of members and their trades is a curious commentary upon the changes wrought in Govan during the 150 years that have elapsed since the foundation of the Weavers' Society. Among those who "paid the ordinary entrys and were all addmitted members" on February 5, 1757, were "James Rowand of Heathrie-hall (note the final 'd'), Stephen Rowan of Holmfauldhead, James Anderson, Portioner in east end of Meiklegovan, Robert Hill, Merch^t there, Ninian Hill, Merch^t in Glasgow, and Samull Crooks, Fidler in Glasgow." In 1760 we have "William Burns, weaver in Muryflets." This "Muryflets" is the Merryflats of to-day, and the prefix "mury" preserves the derivation of the name, the lands round about there being known, from their marshy character, in days long, long past, as the Miry or Mury Flats, *i.e.*, damp, level land. The memory of one of the old "trades" of the village is preserved in the admission to the society, in 1765, of "William Birrard, blitcher in Govan." Bleacher, of

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course, is meant, "bleaching" being then one of the staple "industries" of the place.

In June, 1769, "Robert Buchanan, coall hewer in Govan," is admitted a member. Coals were wrought on the lands of Govan for many centuries, a pit 19 fathoms deep being sunk on Bellahouston estate so recently as 1839. The workings are all disused, and, indeed, little trace can be found now of any of these old pits. In this Bellahouston pit the coal that was raised was only 19 inches thick, but eight inches of that was parrot or cannel coal, which sold at a high price for the purpose of being converted into gas. The "dip," it will interest those of a geological turn of mind to know, was to the east and south-east.

The halcyon days of the salmon fishing on the Clyde are recalled by the entry recording that, in 1798, "Duncan Morison, Fisher, Govan," became a member of the Govan Weavers' Society. Equally quaint is the record of 1813, "Thomas Oliphant, Fisher in Tradeston," who, from the entry, also apparently deceased that year.

Let us now consider the general history of this the oldest society in the burgh. Although there is not, in these days, a single member of the craft in the district, it still flourishes, and has (1905) a capital of close upon £5000.

The preamble of the charter reads as follows:—"At Meikle Govan, the thirtieth day of August seventeen hundred and fifty six years, at which time and place the majority of Weavers there being met together, and considering the many straightening circumstances some people in this trade and other trades and denominations are often reduced to in Divine Providence, and thinking it their duty to exert themselves as far as possible towards the support of the poor in this place, are determined to enter into a friendly society or association, and to elect an oversman and collector, and eight masters to represent the said society. They therefore appointed Friday next, being the third day of September, to be the day for electing the said office bearers, and that good order and harmony might be observed on the said day of election, the Community judged it necessary that a Preses be chosen to nominate a leet to be voted upon

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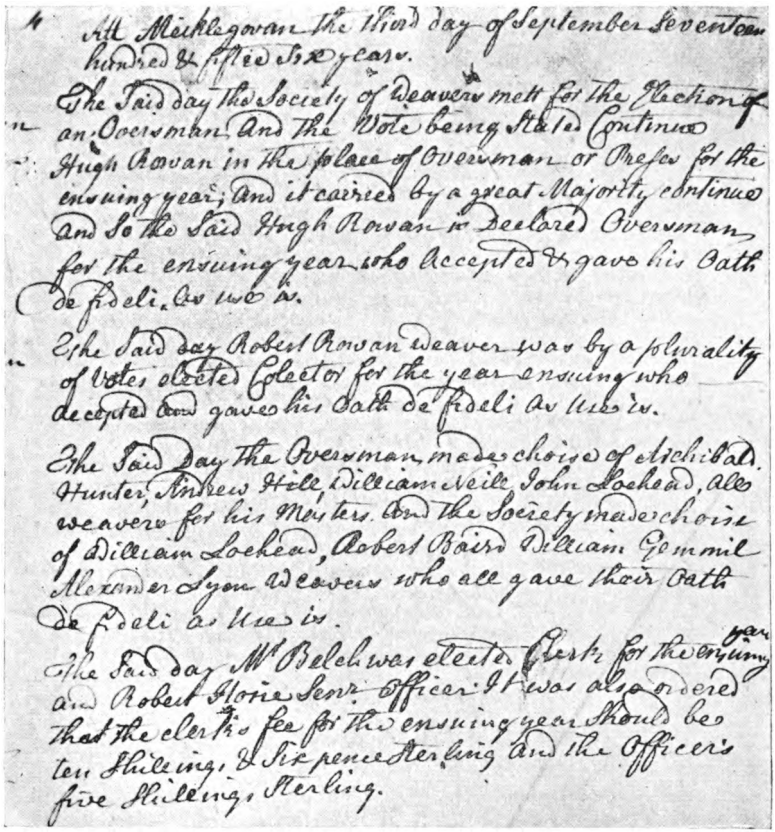

By permission of the Society.

Govan Weavers' Society.
(Facsimile first "Minute.")

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and to preside at the said election, and accordingly Hugh Rowan, weaver in Meikle Govan, was unanimously chosen Preses, who nominated Archibald Hunter, Andrew Hill, and Alexander Lyon, weavers in Meikle Govan, as a leet to be voted upon at the ensuing election."

The Community entrusted the drawing up of their charter to George Napier, writer in Glasgow. It was signed on 16th October,* 1756, in his presence and John Rowan of Teucherhill, by the following subscribers :—

William Walker, weaver, Govan; James Rowan of Heathriehall; John Robertson, weaver, Govan; John Buchanan, weaver, Anderston; John Dreghorn, innkeeper, Govan; Ninian Anderson, maltman, Govan; Malcolm Campbell, weaver, Govan; Patrick Houston, gardener, Govan; Adam Dalgleish, weaver, Govan; James Barr, weaver, Govan; James Murdoch, smith, Govan; William Park, shoemaker, Govan; James Baird, weaver, Govan; Alexander Rowand of Greenhead; William Auchincloss, weaver, Govan; James Robertson, weaver, Anderston; George Earston, weaver, Govan; James Ogloch, weaver, Glasgow; James Robertson, weaver, Partick; John Imrie, weaver, Govan; John Sellars, weaver, Govan; James Sellars, weaver, Govan; John Gibson, senr., weaver, Govan; John Barnet, weaver, Govan; Robert Walker, weaver, Meikle Govan; Alexander M'Arthur, weaver, Govan; Thomas Campbell, weaver, Govan; Alexander Dougall, weaver, Govan; John Robertson, smith, Govan; Robert Cochrane, weaver, Govan; Joseph Lochhead; William Ritchie, weaver, Govan; John Gibson, junr., weaver, Govan; James Ferguson, weaver, Govan; Thomas White, distiller, Govan; Robert Love, weaver, Govan; Robert Burnside, weaver, Govan; Alexander Buchanan; William Robertson, weaver, Govan; Hugh Rowan, weaver, Govan; Robert Rowand, weaver, Govan; Archibald Hunter, weaver, Govan; William Gemmell, weaver; William Lochhead, weaver, Govan; Alexander Lyon, weaver, Govan; William Neill, weaver, Govan; Donald Walker, weaver, Govan; William Anderson, weaver, Govan; John Lochhead, weaver, Govan; John Belch, schoolmaster, clerk to society, 1756; Andrew Hill, weaver, Govan; John M'Lellan, weaver, Govan; Robert Ritchie, weaver, Govan; Robert Hosie, officer of society, 1756.

The "weavers," in course of time, developed into a powerful guild. Their deacon was elected annually, the election being accompanied by ceremonies and processions illustrative of the antiquity and utility of the weaving mystery, as it was called, and in these early days it not only rivalled but excelled the masonic mysteries in the support and affection of the people. We may regard the 54 names given above as those of

* The 150th year of the charter being adopted (16th October, 1905), was celebrated by a reception and dance in the Govan Town Halls. The function was attended by close on 500 guests, who were received by Deacon Maclachlan and Collector George M. Miller.

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the founders of the society. The first admission they made of members took place on 3rd December, 1756.

There joined two distillers, two weavers, and a schoolmaster, but this small number was followed by a large accession within the next two years, viz., 51 were admitted members on 2nd June, 1757, at a master-court meeting and 221 next day at the general meeting; 51 were admitted on 1st June, 1758, at a master-court meeting and 221 next day at the general meeting—making a total of 614. These came from all parts of Scotland, and belonged to all trades and professions. For instance—Glasgow claimed 170, Paisley 125, Gorbals 39, Anderston 38, Partick 28, Calton 21, Renfrew 18, Pollokshaws 10, Milngavie 7, and so on. 303 were designated weavers, 44 merchants, 27 bakers, 15 distillers, 15 labourers, 13 tailors, 10 landed gentlemen, 9 shoemakers, 8 smiths, 8 masons, and 3 fiddlers.

A large proportion of this extraordinary number, however, never joined the society, the roll showing that the whole membership only consisted of 342 members in 1760—only two years after the latter admission; and this number diminished to 225 in 1777—five years after the members were restricted to the parish of Govan. It is difficult to account for such an influx from all parts of the country, but, doubtless, many of them joined with the hope of obtaining immediate aid. That such was not the intention of the founders we see from the following enactments of the period bearing on this point:—(1) "That no charity be given out of the common box till after the expiration of six years from the getting up of the same. (2) That none shall be admitted members of this society but what shall be able to support themselves, or are not likely soon to be a burthen to this society. (3) That the present fund for the poor of this place shall be a growing fund, and in order thereunto the quarter accounts shall be added yearly to the capital sum," until on two hundred pounds being accumulated the interest would be disbursed for relief, while upon occasion it would be lawful to apply both interest and capital.

The rule as to admission of members was at first

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unrestricted as to age and residence. At a meeting held on 8th August, 1772, in Glasgow (the only meeting ever held outwith Govan) it was enacted that no person be admitted a member under 14 or above 45 years of age, nor any person to receive charity from the society until they are members of three years' standing. A change upon this rule was made in 1779, when it was agreed that all freemen's sons should have liberty to enter at the age of five and upwards, providing they were of sound body and mind. This latter act was rescinded in 1785.

At first there was no restriction as to place of residence, but in 1772 it was resolved that no person be admitted who resides outwith the parish of Govan, except such as enter by their parents or masters. The boundaries were defined as "Shield Burn on the east, and the parish as it now stands on the south, Renfrew Bridge on the west; and, on the north of the Clyde, Kelvin on the east to the Aqueduct Bridge and the Canal to Skaterigg, and from there the west boundaries of the parish to the Clyde." This rule has now been enlarged so that any person of sound constitution between 14 and 45 may become a member.

The first rule on the charter says "That there be an oversman chosen yearly upon the first Friday of June by voice of the whole society." The date and mode of voting have remained the same since the formation, but the trade and residence of the oversman was restricted by a subsequent act, when it was defined that the oversman shall always be thereafter a "*Weaver in Meikle Govan, residing there,*" and further, that this act was "*at no time hereafter to be dispensed with upon any account or pretext whatsoever.*" Time and circumstances, however, had so altered matters that, in May, 1810, it was agreed that every free member in the village should have liberty to bear any office whatever in the Weavers' Society, independent of any rule to the contrary.

Between 1756 and 1811 no fewer than 35 acts were made, some of which held rather a contradictory relationship to each other, but in June, 1823, the articles were all carefully revised and a code of rules drawn up, which, with a few alterations, is the one presently in

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force. Some of those old acts, as we have seen, provide curious glimpses of the excellent spirit which prevailed in old Govan. Thus, in 1793, when the French War broke out, the society patriotically enacted that "if any member shall enlist in the King's service he shall be received a member again upon producing his discharge and paying one shilling, providing his quarter accounts were all paid at the time he enlisted." The society would appear, at this period, to have regained something like its pristine prosperity, the membership having reached the large figure of 573. It says a good deal for the spirit which animated the youth of those days, and, at the same time, it is flattering indeed to local sentiment to think that of the number mentioned no fewer than 48 became soldiers and 15 sailors. Large as were the issues at stake in those stirring days, when Britain and France were locked in the deadly embrace of war, it is matter for satisfaction that the little village of Govan lent the full proportion of her manhood to fight for the Union Jack.

The benefits to decayed members and widows were disbursed on a generous scale. In 1792 the amount paid was £44 19s. 6d., the sums voted varying as follows:—10s., 12s., 16s., and 18s. per quarter, and, despite the act of 1763—to pay nothing to the poor till the capital reached £200—we find these kindly intromissions considerable, even as early as 1771.

The collector states his charge for that year to be £19 19s. 0½d., and his discharge £15 7s. 8d., leaving the modest balance of £4 11s. 4½d. in favour of the society. From that date the society seems to have rapidly progressed, judging by the money transactions. In the year mentioned the society granted—"to the Thistle Bank"—four bills representing £90, and one of the bills was for a period of sixteen months; a bond for £100; and made a lodgement in "the Merchant Bank" of £150—in all, £340. The benefits to decayed members and widows varied—the master court voting sums proportionate to the necessity of each case. The first account of how much each petitioner received is dated 1791, and the sums voted varied as follows:—10s., 12s., 16s., and 18s. per quarter. This is almost equivalent to what decayed members receive at present. In 1806

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the accounts show the sums paid to be—4s., 5s., 6s., 7s., 8s., 9s., and 10s. per quarter; and in 1822—1s., 2s. 6d., 3s., 3s. 6d., 4s., 5s., and one got 9s. per quarter.

Let us now travel forward to a meeting held in the Govan Schoolhouse on the 3rd of August, 1855. It was a meeting fraught with danger to the very existence of the Govan Weavers' Society. We will cull the minute verbatim:—"It was moved by Mr. John M'Fie, and seconded by Mr. John Smellie, that no new members be admitted into this society until the question pending be settled, that is, whether this society continue as it is, or become a friendly society, *or be dissolved and the funds divided among the members.* It was carried, by a majority, that the discussion on this motion be taken at the next quarterly meeting. (Signed) James Robertson, preses."

On the 2nd of November, after the ordinary meeting of the master court was over, "a general meeting of the society, called by *the village crier*, was held." The motion this time was direct. Mr. John M'Fie moved, and Mr. John Smellie seconded, that "the society be dissolved at the beginning of July next." After some discussion, the consideration of the matter was deferred to a general meeting, held in the schoolhouse on the 30th of November. At this meeting, the roll being called, 12 voted for the dissolution of the society and 10 that it continue as it was. *It was accordingly carried, by a majority, that the society should be dissolved*, and a committee was appointed to wind up its affairs.

Matters, apparently, were proceeding smoothly for "the dissolvers," when the proverbial fly appeared in their ointment. At a meeting on the 26th of December a letter was read from Messrs. J. & J. Hamilton, writers in Glasgow, expressing grave doubts of the legality of the movement to dissolve the society. Following on the reading of this letter, Mr. James Robertson moved, and Mr. Waddell seconded, that the society acquiesce in its terms. Mr. John M'Fie proposed, and Mr. Thomas Aitken seconded, an amendment that they do not acquiesce in the advice tendered by Messrs. Hamilton. Ten voted for the amendment and 16 for the motion, and Mr. M'Fie then gave notice of motion, to be discussed in three months, "that the society be dissolved."

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On the 25th of July, 1856, the meeting took place in the Govan Schoolhouse. The minute says, briefly, "After a discussion, in which several members engaged," the motion of Mr. M'Fie, that the society be dissolved, was put to the meeting. Twenty-one voted for the dissolving of the society and 23 against, so the motion was accordingly lost. This, however, did not content Mr. M'Fie and his seconder, Mr. Smellie, for we have them again, on the 7th of November, wishful of discussing, "at a date not less than three months hence," the question of dissolving the society and dividing the funds. The preses refused to allow the motion, "whereupon the meeting separated."

The matter was again brought up on the 17th of February, 1857, when Mr. Henry Robertson, seconded by Mr. Smellie, moved that the society be dissolved. An amendment by Mr. Robert Galbraith, seconded by Mr. James Robertson, that the society be continued was carried, however, by 18 votes to 10. So the Govan weavers went on their way rejoicing. We have, in 1862, an echo of the dissolution proposal after which some of the members were hankering, when a motion was put by Mr. Henry Robertson, seconded by Mr. John Barr, that the society be dissolved and the funds disposed of at the discretion of a majority of the members. Fortunately for the society, the matter does not appear to have been pressed, and it eventually dropped.

Interesting, indeed, as showing the community of interests existing in the youthful burgh, then scarcely a year old, is the entry in the cash-book—"Govan, 28th June, 1865, which day the master court of the Govan Weavers' Society met and resolved to lend £340 to the Govan Commissioners of Police, on the receipt of a bill signed by them. John Barr, preses."

It is in the order of things that a society such as this should be in possession of some relics of bygone times. The weavers have two—the Sheriffmuir flag (already referred to in the text) and a spear, known as "King Robert the Bruce's spear." The flag was borne on the field of Sheriffmuir in 1715 by a band of Govan volunteers—John Rowan of Teucherhill being ensign. On the formation of the society in 1756, his son,

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Thomas Rowan, committed it to their care, and it now forms their most precious relic. Up to 38 years ago the flag was exhibited at the yearly election of the deacon, but the crumbling hand of time had so worked upon the honoured colour that it was relegated to the repose to be found in a "case." Besides an inscription in Latin, now undecipherable, there appear upon the cloth the words, "For God, King, and Covenant."

The history of the spear, unfortunately, has not been preserved. It was presented to the society by a Mr. Barclay, merchant in Glasgow, about the year 1786. A committee of investigation was appointed by the weavers in 1844 to inquire into the history of this weapon, but, previous to its coming into the possession of Mr. Barclay, nothing could be gleaned by the committee. That it is an ancient weapon is shown by its character, and, from the design of the "head," I should imagine it belonged to the early years of the seventeenth century.

One other feature of the society is worthy of notice, viz., the parade. A few years ago this function was one of the "sights" of Govan, but circumstances proved too strong for this ancient ceremony, and a trip annually "doon the water" took its place. This has also been abandoned for several years. The master court have, however, had an outing each summer. In old days, however, the weavers' parade* was the event of the year in the burgh, and the minutes relative to it are, as we have just seen, extremely interesting. It was held on the first Friday of June, which had been Govan Fair Day from time immemorial. No relic of this one-time great local anniversary now exists—nothing but the fading memory of the procession which was headed by the sheep's head, the ancient insignia of the village and of the weavers.

The society has, since its institution, taken the leading place among local guilds. Old Govanites regard membership as a privilege, and incomers, very naturally, as an honour. Since its incorporation there have been found on its roll the majority of the burgh's

* The last parade took place in 1881, when William Barr, jun. was deacon.

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provosts, bailies, commissioners, and men whom it has delighted to honour, the positions of deacon and collector conferring high privilege upon the holders. The weaving trade practically became extinct in the burgh about 1863, the rules were remodelled, and the society became a Govan guild, with nothing but its name and funds to point to its origin. Another revision took place on 25th November, 1884, and on the 3rd March, 1885, a new coat-of-arms and stamp illustrative of the present industries of Govan were substituted for the ancient one, the only relics retained being the sheep's head,* the wheatsheaf and salmon, and the thistle of old Govan. The latest revision took place in 1905, when a new set of rules, etc., were adopted.

Appended are the names of the deacons and collectors since the formation of the society :—

	Deacons.	Collectors.
1756	Hugh Rowan.	Robert Rowan.
1757	Archibald Hunter.	William Burns.
1758	Robert Rowan.	Alexander Rowan.
1759	Andrew Hill.	James Rowan.
1760	John Lochhead.	William Norrie.
1761	William Paterson.	John Robertson.
1762	William Robertson.	John Dreghorn.
1763	Hugh Rowan.	Ninan Anderson.
1764	James Hunter.	Archibald Rowan.
1765	William Nile.	James Robertson.
1766	James Anderson.	John Hunter.
1767	James Robertson.	James Reid.
1768	Archibald Rowan.	Thomas Rowan.
1769	John Scott.	William White.
1770	John Hunter.	William Norrie.
1771	John Easton.	Walter Johnstone.
1772	James Ferguson.	William Smith.
1773	William Reid.	William Park.
1774	John Sellars.	Robert Wright.
1775	James Barr.	William Neill, Junr.
1776	Robert Wright.	Andrew Neill.
1777	John Fleming.	William Cochrane.
1778	Gavin Gibson.	David Dreghorn.
1779	Alexander Cansh.	William Reid.
1780	David Dreghorn.	William White.
1781	Robert Colquhoun.	Adam Colquhoun.
1782	Peter Sellars.	William White.

*The society have in their possession a couple of sheep's heads. One was presented to the guild about 20 years ago, as the original "head" was in a most dilapidated condition, nothing being left but the skull bone. It is, however, still preserved along with the other relics belonging to the guild.

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	Deacons.	Collectors.
1783	William Smith.	Allan Dreghorn.
1784	Thomas Park.	Alexander Cansh.
1785	James Barr, Junr.	Capt. Rowan of Haughhead.
1786	James Morrison.	James Scott.
1787	David Smith.	John Adam.
1788	James Scott.	William Kerr.
1789	John M'Lean.	Thomas Park.
1790	Adam Colquhoun.	William Montgomrie.
1791	Robert Reid.	Allan Dreghorn.
1792	John Barr.	John Donald.
1793	Peter Cooper.	John Rowan.
1794	James Park.	Alexander Cansh.
1795	William Dunlop.	Allan Dreghorn.
1796	Alexander Findlay.	William Doual.
1797	Hugh Stevenson.	John Findlay.
1798	George Clark.	George Neil.
1799	James Smith.	David Dreghorn.
1800	John Kelley.	George Clark.
1801	James Rowan.	James Waddell.
1802	William Clews.	Alex. Findlay.
1803	Alexander Cansh, Junr.	John Steven.
1804	William M'Lae.	John Couper.
1805	John Steven.	James Muir.
1806	George Hewitt.	William Bryce.
1807	Andrew Riddell.	James Smith.
1808	Matthew Wardrop.	James Rowan.
1809	William Park, Junr.	James Waddell.
1810	Archibald Harvey	Alexander Cansh, Junr.
1811	James Waddell.	James Barr, Junr.
1812	William Lyle.	Peter Couper, Senr.
1813	John Andrew.	Andrew Brownlie.
1814	James Kelly.	Gavin Dunlop.
1815	Adam Spiers.	William Gibson, Junr.
1816	William Aitken.	James Cansh.
1817	Thomas Weir.	Archibald Downs.
1818	John Hamilton.	James Dunlop.
1819	James Couper.	James Barr.
1820	John Hewitt.	Andrew Waddell.
1821	James Barr.	Archibald Harvey.
1822	Andrew Smith.	Andrew Smith.
1823	James Downs.	Maxwell Cansh.
1824	John Hendry.	Gavin Dunlop.
1825	Thomas Paton.	John Hamilton.
1826	Andrew Waddell.	William Bryce.
1827	Thomas Adam.	Thomas Weir.
1828	William Reid.	Moses Waddell.
1829	Andrew Wishart.	Alexander M'Lea.
1830	John Milnes.	George Clark, Junr.
1831	Alexander Ramsay.	Robert Wishart.
1832	James Robertson.	James Reid.
1833	James Ronald.	John Harvey
1834	James Reid.	James Couper.
1835	Archibald Downs.	James Walker.
1836	Thomas M'Kean.	James Aitken.
1837	Thomas Aitken.	Moses Waddell.
1838	James Aitken.	John Reid.

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	Deacons.	Collectors.
1839	David Aitken.	... Thomas Mills.
1840	Thomas Aitken. ...	... John Hamilton, Junr.
1841	James Wilson.	... Gavin Dunlop.
1842	Maxwell Cansh	... James M'Kean.
1843	Moses Waddell. ...	... Andrew Donald.
1844	Gavin Dunlop.	... Cunningham M'Kean.
1845	James M'Kean.	... George Clark.
1846	Cunningham M'Kean. ...	... William Gardner.
1847	Andrew Donald. ...	... Robert Cansh
1848	George Clark, Junr. ...	... George Wishart.
1849	John Stevenson. ...	... James M'Kim.
1850	Henry Robertson. ...	... John Gilmour.
1851	James Hamilton. ...	... James Robertson.
1852	John Gilmour.	... Thomas Burns.
1853	John M'Fie.	... John Hamilton.
1854	John Smellie.	... William Dunn.
1855	James Robertson. ...	... Andrew Donald.
1856	William Paton.	... Henry Robertson.
1857	John Blackney.	... James Hamilton.
1858	James M'Kim.	... William Dunn.
1859	George Wardrop. ...	... Robert Harvey.
1860	Thomas Burns.	... Moses Waddell.
1861	George Wishart. ...	... John M'Phee.
1862	Neil Gilmore.	... John Hamilton.
1863	Peter Reid.	... George Wishart.
1864	Thomas Neilson. ...	... James M'Kim.
1865	John Barr.	... James Elder.
1866	James Robertson. ...	... Thomas Neilson.
1867	James Elder.	... John Barr.
1868	Peter Hutchison. ...	... William Barr.
1869	Andrew Wishart. ...	... Joseph Hutchison.
1870	William Gardner. ...	... Alexander Campbell.
1871	Joseph Hutchison. ...	... William Gilchrist.
1872	William Barr.	... John Barr.
1873	Thomas Laidlaw. ...	... Archibald M'Kay.
1874	William Gilchrist. ...	... Peter Hutchison.
1875	Archibald M'Kay. ...	... Thomas Laidlaw.
1876	John Galt.	... William Sibbald.
1877	George Gilmour. ...	... George Spence.
1878	Peter Reid.	... Hamilton Marr.
1879	John Stewart.	... William Barr, Junr.
1880	Robert Lorimer. ...	... Robert B. Dalziel.
1881	William Barr, Junr. ...	... Robert Anderson.
1882	Henry Alexander. ...	... Alexander Marshall.
1883	Robert Anderson. ...	... Robert Muir.
1884	Hamilton Marr. ...	... George Gilmour.
1885	Robert Muir.	... Dr. Fred. Freer.
1886	William Barr, Senr. ...	... Alexander Campbell.
1887	George Spence. ...	... John M'Feat.
1888	Alexander Campbell. ...	... Hugh Lymburn.
1889	John M'Feat.	... James Grindlay.
1890	Hugh Lymburn. ...	... John Smeaton.
1891	Ex-Provost Alex. Campbell.	... William Sutherland.
1892	John Smeaton.	... John Brown.
1893	William Sutherland. ...	... David Johnstone.
1894	John Brown.	... Charles Marshall.

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	Deacons.	Collectors.
1895	David Johnstone.	William T. Petrie.
1896	Charles Marshall.	Walter Yuill.
1897	William T. Petrie.	Archibald Hutcheson.
1898	Walter Yuill.	David Watson.
1899	Archibald Hutcheson.	William Morrison.
1900	David Watson.	John Miller.
1901	David Watson.	Matthew Simpson.
1902	John Miller.	Ex-Provost James Kirkwood.
1903	Matthew Simpson.	George Maclachlan.
1904	Ex-Provost James Kirkwood. ...	R. H. B. Thomson, J.P.
1905	George Maclachlan.	George M. Miller, J.P.

Abstract Showing the Entry-Money, Etc., at Different Times.

	Entry-Money of Members without Privilege.			Entry-Money of Sons and Sons-in-Law of Members.	
	Entry-Money.	Annual Quarter Accounts.	Full Entry and no Quarterly Accounts.	Entry-Money.	Full Entry.
1756-59	None	1/	Non	None	None
1760-63	5/6	1/	Non	5/6	None
1764-69	5/6	1/	15/6	5/6	15/6
1770-1862	5/6	1/	15/6	3/	13/
1863-76	10/6	1/	£1 10/6	5/6	£1 5/6
1877-89	16/	2/	£2 3/	8/6	£1 14/6
1890-1902	—	—	£3 3/	—	£1 14/6
1902	—	—	£4 4/	—	£2 5/6

The following is a list of the clerks and officers since the foundation of the society :—

	Clerks.		Officers.
1756–59.	John Belch, schoolmaster.	1756–57.	Robert Hosie.
1760–71.	John Maxwell, writer.	1758–59.	William Ogloch.
1772–74.	James M'Lehose, writer.	1760–73.	Do.
1775–77.	John Belch, schoolmaster.	1774–77.	John Brown.
1778–97.	Do. do.	1778–79.	Do.
1798–1844.	John King, schoolmaster.	1780–81.	William Auchincloss.
1845.	John King, junior.	1782–1828.	John Brown.
1846.	Gavin Dunlop.	1829–37.	William Shields.
1847–51.	Allan King.	1838–56.	James Hendry.
1852–56.	Wm. Fulton, schoolmaster.	1857–67.	Thomas Aitken.
1857–72.	Do. do.	1868–73.	William Farquhar.
1873.	James Fulton.	1874–81.	Thomas Burns.
1874–1900.	D. Fullarton, schoolmaster.	1881–90.	Alexander Sibbald.
1901–1904.	J. Macgregor Malloch, writer.	1890.	Thos. Montgomery.
1904.	Henry Wearing.	1905.	Do.

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CHAPTER XIII.

THE PARISH KIRK—EARLY AND MEDIÆVAL GOVAN CHURCHES—THE BELL TREE—QUAINT NOTES ANENT THE ANCIENT KIRKS—THE MANSE—MINISTERS OF GOVAN—PRIESTS OF GOVAN.

The present parish church, which occupies the ancient ecclesiastical site, dedicated to St. Constantine, was opened on 19th May, 1888. Sir R. Rowand Anderson, of Edinburgh, was the architect. The church which immediately preceded the present building was erected in 1826 from plans furnished by Mr. James Smith of Jordanhill. Its spire was a reproduction of that of the church of Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-on-Avon, and it formed for many years a conspicuous object in the landscape, rising with fine effect from amid the surrounding elms. Indeed, it lent a good deal of artistic "point" to that particular sweep of the river, and in this respect is used with considerable dexterity by both Sam Bough and Simpson in their water-colours of that "bit."

This church was taken down in 1884, and re-erected, almost stone for stone, at the junction of Logie and John Streets, adjacent to the beautiful park gifted by Mrs. Elder. It is known as the Elder Park Parish Church.

The structure which immediately preceded the church of 1826 was erected in 1762, and the manse, which closely adjoined it on the east, some thirty years thereafter. Unfortunately, no drawing or plan is now in existence of the building, which was pulled down in 1826. Old Dr. Pollok, in his statistical account of 1793, describes this church as "very commodious and in good condition." Compared with similar structures of the time, it would doubtless hold its own from an architectural point of view. The keynote of the design would be severe simplicity, bordering on

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uninteresting plainness. Doubtless it was the predominance of the latter quality which induced the heritors to pull it down in 1826, and erect on its site a much more handsome and commodious building. Having been built in 1762, it was therefore only 64 years old. Unless of very fragile construction, it ought to have been in splendid condition about 1826. In all likelihood the building was strong enough, but we suspect that the lack of beauty or adornment of any kind would be the main factor which led to its being demolished. There is reason to believe that this structure, erected in 1762, had not even a belfry, and that the kirk bell was hung on a tree in the kirkyard. This old tree was destroyed by a storm in the early years of last century, but as "the Bell Tree of Govan Kirk" its memory still faintly lingers in the district.

Previous to 1762 the parishioners worshipped in the kirk, built probably during the Reformation. This sixteenth-century church is thus described—"A small, unadorned, and uninteresting-looking edifice. Its interior was hideously plain. It had an earthen floor, and there were no fixed seats." Probably a trifle overdrawn is the foregoing description, yet it conveys some idea of the rude and stern covenanting days, and such a house of God would then suit the tenor of men's minds. We find some interesting notes with reference to this building in the Glasgow Burgh Records.

As heritors of Govan, the proprietors of Gorbals had to contribute towards the upkeep of the parish church. On 1st November, 1651, the collector of Hutcheson's Hospital was authorised to pay £96 (£8 sterling) "for the towne and hospitallis pairt of the ile buildit in the kirk of Govane." An application was made on 13th August, 1659, for a contribution with the rest of the heritors of Govan towards the expense of repairing the manse, and the Town Council (of Glasgow) agreed that, "how soon the vallowatioune of that parish is rectified," the town should contribute according to its proportion. As was pointed out in a former chapter, the prebendal manse of Govan was in Glasgow, and was situated on the west side of Castle Street. (See Chapter IV.) This manse may still have been occupied by the ministers of Govan after the Reformation,

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and the entry given above probably alludes to it. The manse occupied by Dr. Leishman prior to the building of the Ibrox establishment was put up in 1790, and it is said that the old house of Govandale was occupied as a manse previous to that date.

On 11th November, 1665, the Town Council received notice that "upon Monday nixt ther is ane visitatioune to be of the kirk of Govane anent some repairing thereof, and in respect of the tounes interest, as now heritouris of Gorballes," a bailie of Glasgow and a bailie of Gorbals were appointed to attend the visitation, and they subsequently consented to the repairs. In October, 1674, Donald M'Gilcreist and two others are ordained "to sight Goveane kirk and to tak notice if Johne Clark, measoune, hes builded the wast end therof sufficiently."

No vestiges of the early or of the mediæval church of Govan exist. Doubtless the early ecclesiastical establishment would be built of wood, the majority of the churches prior to the time of David, "the sair sanct," having been so constructed. The first building of stone, there is reason to believe, reared at Govan was in the twelfth century, as it is recorded that part of the mediæval church which remained in 1762 was of the Norman style, the work of the twelfth century.

Doubtless this Norman structure shared in the general destruction of beautiful ecclesiastical establishments which marked the religious zeal of the reformers, and the barn-like edifice which served the parishioners until 1762 would be erected out of the ruins of the mediæval building. The description of this Reformation kirk as handed down to us—"small, unadorned, and hideously plain"—suggests, not the graceful traceries of the Norman period, but the stilted and bald style characteristic of the early Scottish reformers.

The teinds of Gorbals, as belonging to the parsonage of Govan, were conferred on the College of Glasgow by Crown charter, dated 13th July, 1577. The college authorities did not themselves draw the teinds, but set them on tack to the proprietors in consideration of annual money payments, so much to the minister of Govan and so much to the college. The proprietors recouped themselves by drawing teinds from the tenants either by themselves or through tacksmen.

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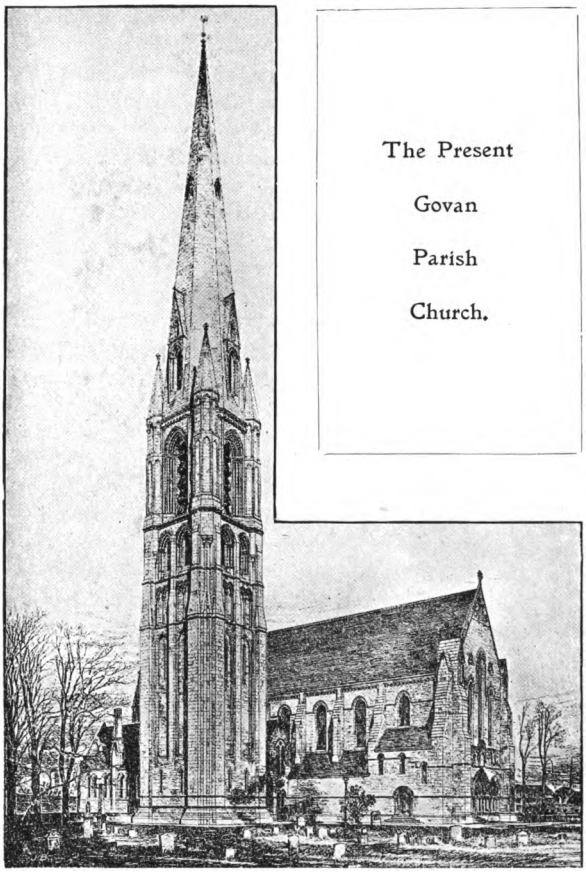

The Present
Govan
Parish
Church.

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Judged by the money standard of to-day, the old manse dwelling and complete court of offices must have been of a somewhat primitive type. Their erection, Dr. Pollok tells us, cost nearly £500, and, in a tone of admiration and gratitude, he adds, "the readiness of the heritors to incur such a heavy burden stands unexampled in most places in Scotland." Life was surely simpler in those days. Hear the doctor waxing eloquent upon his stipend. It consisted of four chalders of peas or barley, four chalders of meal, and £600 Scots, including allowances for communion elements. The glebe lands consisted of about seven acres, yielding nearly £12 a year for grazing purposes. A handsome stipend, you will say; but recollect, the £600 Scots amounted to but £50 sterling English money a year! And we find the good old doctor passing rich on, say, a little over a £100 per annum, with a grateful heart for his lot! Truly the times have changed.

Let us picture the old manse. It nestled 'midst a grove of tall elms, in which a colony of rooks had their abode. A beautiful green lawn sloped gently down to the river side, and from the little arbour in the corner of his garden the doctor watched the weaver drawing salmon from the Clyde. Were he a disciple of old Isaac, the minister could stand within his own grounds and have a cast with his rod, landing the struggling trout on the aforesaid lawn. In such a retreat we catch the glamour of the "good old times." The scene has changed. Stone, brick, and iron structures occupy the one-time lawn, and there remains naught to bring it to mind. Amid these rural surroundings was the abode of Dr. Leishman up till the year 1858. At that period the present manse at Ibrox was ready for his occupancy, and after removing to the new abode the old manse fell on evil days.

The feu-holder who had taken over that portion of the glebe let the manse in single rooms—in other words, it became a species of barracks, an ancestor to the present-day "model." The building was eventually pulled down about 35 years ago, to make room for the dingy four-storeyed tenement which now so conspicuously marks the spot whereon the manse of Govan

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once stood. In virtue of this it is named the "Glieb Building" (why not Glebe?), this legend, in somewhat faded characters, adorning the corner house. The road leading to Glebe Building recalls by its name, Mansefield Street, memories of the vanished past.

It is worthy of being recorded that the present church was reared by voluntary congregational subscription. Sir William and Lady Pearce gave over £7000, and Mrs. John Elder subscribed most liberally. The late Misses Steven built the beautiful chapel which bears their name. Altogether, the sum collected and expended by the church members upon the building amounted to upwards of £27,000. This, however, did not permit of the completion of a spire as in the architect's design, but the cost of such an addition——£7000—is likely to be forthcoming at no distant date.

As was mentioned in the text, there have been since the Reformation eighteen incumbents of the parish church, including the present minister. Andrew Melville was the first recognised minister of Govan. In consequence of the death of the Popish incumbent, the rectory and vicarage became vacant during the minority of James VI. Melville's nephew, in his curious and gossipy diary, tells us that the Regent Morton offered this "guid benefice (Govan), peying four and twentie chalder of victuall," to his uncle, then Principal of the University of Glasgow. Morton's conditions were that Melville would not press upon the kirk his views of ecclesiastical policy; and in the hope of ultimately gaining him over to his party, the Regent kept the living undisposed for nearly two years. The Earl discovered, however, that Melville had too noble a mind to be wrought upon by a sordid consideration. He therefore conveyed the temporalities of the parish to the College of Glasgow, devolving upon the Principal the duty of serving the cure, with a view, says his nephew, "to demearit Mr. Andro (Melville) and cause him relent from dealing against bischopes; but God keepit his awin servant in uprightness and treuthe in the middis of heavie tentationes." (James Melville's Diary, p. 42.)

When Melville was translated to St. Andrews in

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1580 he was succeeded by Thomas Smeton, who was, before his removal to Glasgow, minister of Paisley. He was a very learned man and a great traveller. In early life he spent some time in Paris, and then went to Rome, where he was received into the Society of Jesuits. He afterwards re-visited Paris, and was in that city at the time of the massacre of St. Bartholomew, when—according to Sully's memoirs—70,000 Protestants were put to death in eight days. It was known in Paris that Smeton had embraced the doctrines of the Reformation, but, through the intervention of Sir Thomas Walsingham, the English ambassador, he was smuggled out of the city, escaped the fate of the unhappy Huguenots, and returned to England. He died in Glasgow on the 13th December, 1583, aged 47. Smeton was a very distinguished man in his day. When Hamilton, the apostate, published a book full of furious and libellous charges against the Protestants of Scotland, a keen and crushing reply was published by Smeton. It is dedicated to King James, and has this title—"Ad virubentum Archibaldi Hamiltonie, Apostatæ Dialogum, de Confusione Calvinianæ sectæ. Apud Scotos, Impie Conscriptum Orthodoxa Responsio, Edinburgi, 1579." There is in it an account of the last hours of John Knox. In 1581 the General Assembly appointed "ane method of preaching to be printed and put in Scotts be Mr. Thomas Smeton."

The last Principal of the College of Glasgow who officiated as minister of Govan was Robert Boyd of Trochrig. His father was Archbishop of Glasgow, the grandson of David, Earl of Cassills, and great-grandson of Robert, Earl of Arran. There is a memoir of Boyd written by Wodrow in the library of the College of Glasgow. The title is itself an epitome of his life. It runs thus:—"Collections on the life of Mr. Robert Boyd of Trochrige, in the shire of Air (Ayr) and bailayrie of Carrick, Professor of Philosophy in the Colledge of Montauban, Minister of the Gospel in the Church of Vertuile, and Pastor and Professor of Theology in the University of Sanmure, in France; and Principal of the University of Glasgow, Minister and Professor of Divinity at Edinburgh, and Minister at Paisley." Boyd received his early education at the

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Academy of Ayr, graduated at Edinburgh in 1595, and left for France on the 1st May, 1597. In October, 1614, he was recalled by King James to preside over the University of Glasgow, and brought with him his wife, a Frenchwoman. In Wodrow's life we read that "when he came to Glasgow he gave Mr. Taylour, for coming to his wife an hour every day, and teaching her to read English for about three months, an angelot, value 10 merks." Further, "he ate, save when abroad, every month at the Presbytery, and they paid 6d. a-piece for their dinner, and sometimes 8d. a-piece when they called for wine"! Also, that "for a horse to Govan" he gave 8d., and at lowest half a merk; "to Paisley 1s. 6d." He died in Edinburgh on the 5th of January, 1627, aged 49.

Boyd appears to have been a man of great character and worth. When installed as Principal of the University of Glasgow he asked to be excused from *correcting the students with his own hands*, and from taking his place at the college table. The violent proceedings of Archbishop Law in enforcing conformity excited the indignation of Boyd. That prelate went to some young men who were at that time attending the university, whom he saw seated at the communion table, and commanded them to rise if they would not receive the elements in a kneeling posture. One of these was John Livingston, afterwards minister of Ancrum. The next day Boyd said to Livingston that in the course of two or three weeks he was to celebrate the communion at Govan church, when he and any of his companions who might choose to accompany him would have an opportunity of communicating in the manner they had been accustomed to. Along with Robert Blair and other regents of the university, Boyd likewise expostulated with the Archbishop for driving from the communion table those whom Christ would welcome, adding "that the table was not his but Christ's, and yet he had dealt as imperiously as if removing his horse-boys frome the bye-board." Regarding the correction of students, Boyd was of opinion that to have things well ordered and good manners duly maintained and observed, "personal castigation of the students was necessary."

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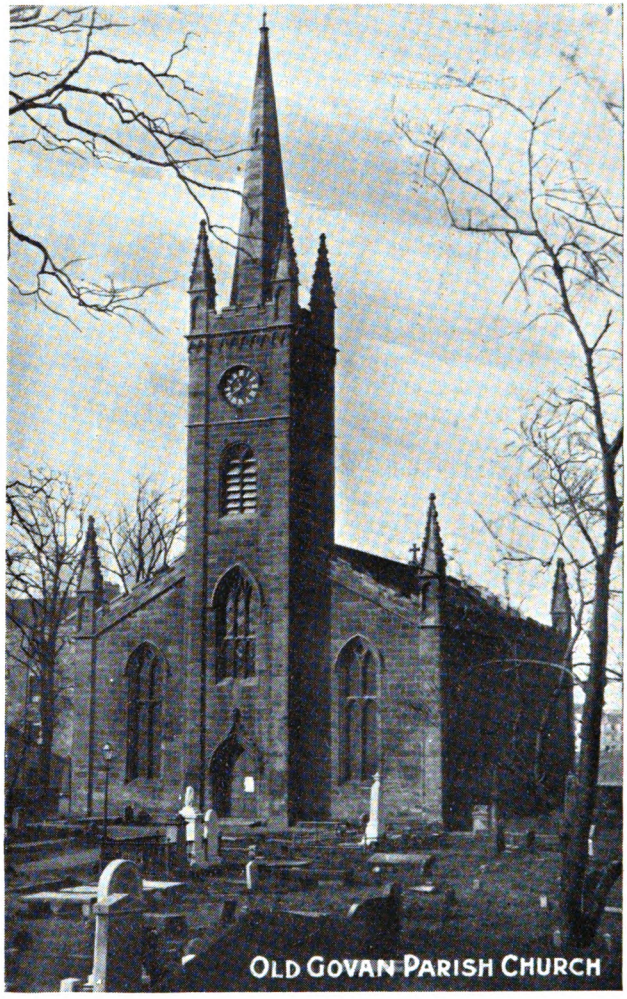

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But for him to inflict this, besides being repugnant to his nature, he thought would be inconsistent with his sacred character. He admitted that his predecessor at Glasgow, Mr. Patrick Sharpe, was not of this mind; but then, said he, Mr. Sharpe merely continued "his wonted custom whereunto he was inured in the grammar school," from which he was removed to be Principal of the university. What Boyd proposed (after leaving Glasgow and before he entered upon the duties of Principal of the University of Edinburgh) was that the oldest regent or sub-principal should correct offenders, or that each of the regents should, under the direction of the Principal, correct his own students. (Wodrow's "Life of Boyd," p. 70.)

It is interesting, in the light of the above, to recall the fact that Milton, according to his learned biographer, was one of the last students who suffered the indignity of corporal punishment at Oxford University. Boyd, as was remarked at a former stage, was a great linguist. "He spoke and wrott Latine most nativly and fluently," says Mr. John Livingston in his "Remarkable Observations," p. 41; and he adds, "I have heard him say that, if he were to choose a language wherein to deliver his minde with the most ready freedom, it would be the Greek tongue." He had also a perfect command of French.

A remarkable man in many respects was Mr. Hugh Binning, who has been characterised as "an extraordinary instance of precocious learning and genius." ("Chambers's Lives," vol. i.)

At the early age of 19 he succeeded as Regent of Philosophy the celebrated James Dalrymple, who was afterwards President of the Court of Session and Viscount Stair. As minister of Govan he was the successor of Mr. William Wilkie. Mr. Wilkie was one of the commissioners appointed by the General Assembly in 1642 to visit the College of Glasgow, where, among other things, the commissioners ordained that the Greek text of Aristotle should be analysed *viva voce*, and thereafter the sense of the text written; that the disputation of the students should continue in their classes and in the public schools; that the students in private should speak Latin; that they should be

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exercised in lawful games, such as golf, archery, and the like, and abstain from all games that are unlawful, as carding, dicing, and such others as are prohibited by their laws; and that every master should educate his own students through all the four classes. The synod deposed Wilkie on the 29th of April, 1649. He was accused and convicted of not preaching against Hamilton's engagement, of associating with malignants, and of being remiss in the exercise of discipline. Principal Baillie, who presided at the first presbyterial visitation for investigating the charges which were brought against Wilkie, thought he was treated with undue severity.

On the 8th of January, 1649, Hugh Binning was ordained. When Cromwell came to Glasgow, in 1651, a discussion upon some points of doctrine was held in his presence between his chaplains, Dr. John Owen, Joseph Caryl, and others, and several Scottish ministers. Mr. Binning, of Govan kirk, was one of the disputants, and, it is said, nonplussed, by his arguments, the Independents. This led the Great Protector to ask, "Who was that learned and bold young man"? His name, he was told, was Binning. "He hath bound well," said Cromwell, "but," laying his hand on his sword, "this will loose all again." (Biog. Scot., p. 169; Dumfries, 1835.) After a short but brilliant career, Binning died of consumption in September, 1653, before he had completed his twenty-seventh year. A marble tablet, with an inscription in classical Latin, was erected to his memory by his friend, Mr. Patrick Gillespie, then Principal of Glasgow University. It is now in the parish church. Binning was styled by his contemporaries the Scots Cicero. The whole of his works are posthumous publications.

Mr. David Veitch, who succeeded Binning, is described by Wodrow as an admirable scholar and a man of great piety. The heritors and elders of Govan elected him to be their minister on the 14th of May, 1654. We have a curious story relative to Veitch's death. It appears to have been the intention of Mr. James Durham, minister of the Inner High Church of Glasgow, to nominate Mr. Veitch as his successor, with the permission of the Town Council. He was apparently pre-

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vented from carrying out this intention, and finally was struck down with a fatal ailment. On his death-bed someone reminded him of his intentions regarding Veitch. The dying clergyman raised himself from the couch and, leaning forward, said:—"David Veitch is too ripe for Heaven to be translated to any church on earth. He will be there almost as soon as I." These words proved fatally prophetic. Mr. Veitch preached to his parishioners on the Sabbath immediately following his friend's death, and it was noticed that he was unusually serious. At the close of his service he startled not a few of his congregation by taking a solemn farewell of them. His strange presentiment of death—for such it must have been—was fulfilled before the week was out, the good man expiring on the Friday, regretted by all who had come in contact with, and been touched by, his great piety of conduct.

A regent in St. Andrews, Alexander Jamieson, was chosen minister of Govan on 26th March, 1659. He was dispossessed of his charge by the Act of Council passed in Glasgow on October 1, 1662. Jamieson was one of the nine "suffering Presbyterian ministers" who, in 1673, licensed Professor Wodrow, father of the historian, to preach the Gospel. He was considered one of the most acute philosophers and profound theologians at that time in Scotland, and, according to Wodrow, had no small share in preparing the "Apology for Persecuted Ministers," which was published about 1674. Sir George Maxwell of Nether Pollok was one of the heritors who were appointed to "goe and signifie their unanimitie in calling of him unto the ministrie." Jamieson afterwards married a sister of Sir George's.

The next man of note who held the charge was Mr. John Pettigrew (see chapter of "Memorabilia"), who was ordained on January 5, 1688. When James VII., with the secret design of re-establishing Popery, suspended, in 1687, the execution of the laws against nonconformity, the Presbyterian clergy, who, during the late period of persecution, had been imprisoned, driven into exile, or silenced, proceeded to reconstruct their presbyteries; or, where their number had been reduced by death, to form those ecclesiastical courts out of the remnants of former adjoining presbyteries. The first

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meeting of the united presbyteries of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr was held in Glasgow on the 30th of August in that year. On the 15th of September "the brethren of the united presbyteries," having received a petition from the parish of Govan for supply, appointed Mr. John Pettigrew to preach there the next Lord's day.

Mr. Pettigrew was succeeded by Mr. Charles Coatts, who was nominated and called to the parish by "the session with the heritors and many masters of families," on 20th December, 1711. Charles Coatts was with the King's army at Stirling, in the capacity of chaplain, during the rebellion of 1715, and doubtless had no small share in raising the body of Govan volunteers who, under John Rowan of Teucherhill, fought for the King at Sheriffmuir. He died in December, 1745. William Thom (see "Memorabilia") succeeded. He was presented on 26th May, 1746, but, owing to some objections taken by the heritors, was not ordained until 25th February, 1748. Dr. John Pollock followed. He was ordained on 21st July, 1791, and died on 7th May, 1820. Dr. Pollock took a great interest in matters educational, and during his lifetime the education of the young occupied a large share of his attentions. He was also a man of most humane parts, and was distinguished for his judicious and kindly management of the affairs of the poor of the district. Dr. Leishman, who is still remembered by some of the older burgh residenters, was ordained on the 1st March, 1821. He was parish minister for the long period of fifty-two years—till 1873—and, on his decease in that year, the late Rev. John M'Leod was called to the charge, which he filled with pre-eminent distinction for close upon thirty years. He was succeeded, in 1899, by the present incumbent, the Rev. Roger S. Kirkpatrick, a gentleman of acknowledged scholarly attainments.

Following is a complete list of the ministers of Govan Parish since the Reformation :—

	Master James Gibson *(appointed by the Reformers of Govan)*, ...	1566–1576.
1.	Andrew Melville, ...	1577–1580.
2.	Thomas Smeton, ...	1580–1584.
3.	Patrick Sharpe, ...	1585–1614.
4.	Robert Boyd, ...	1615–1622.
5.	James Sharpe, ...	1622–1639.
6.	William Wilkie, ...	1640–1649.

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7. Hugh Binning, ... 1650–1653.
8. David Veitch, ... 1654–1658.
9. Alex. Jamieson,* ... ... 1659–1662.
10. John Hay, ... 1663–1667.
11. Gabriel Russell, ... 1667–1688.
12. John Pettigrew, ... 1688–1712.
13. Charles Coatts, ... 1712–1745.
14. William Thom, ... 1746–1790.
15. John Pollock, D.D.,... ... ... 1791–1820.
16. Matthew Leishman, D.D., ... 1821–1874.
17. John M'Leod, D.D., ... 1875–1898.
18. Roger Sandilands Kirkpatrick, ... 1899.

The spiritual wants of the villagers of Govan were attended to by a rector and vicar. These were appointed by the bishops, and the charge was served from Glasgow. The rectors of Govan also held a prebend's stall in the Cathedral of Glasgow from 1148 to the Reformation. From the middle of the fifteenth century onwards the frequent changes in the office suggest that the rectorship of Govan was a means to preferment in the church. The vicars-pensioners had the real charge of the parish.

There is no list extant of these old priests of Govan. It is now impossible, owing to the loss of valuable records during the heated days of the Reformation, when hundreds were destroyed by the religious zeal of the reformers, to give a full list. The list of rectors here given is as complete, however, as can be winnowed from the registers and records left to us:—

Help, ... 1160.
John de Lund, ... 1319.
William de Govan, ... 1432.
Thomas Cameron, ... 1453.
Friar John,† ... ... 1454.
Robert Blacader (Archdeacon of St. Andrews), ... 1478.
John Otterburn, ... 1480.
Malcolm Durans, ... 1497.
Adam Colquhoun, ... 1508.
(Andrew Malcolm, vicar.)
Thomas Muirhead, ... 1511.
(David Dun, vicar.)
Walter Beatoun, ... 1525.
Stephen Beatoun, ... 1561–1577.

* "Mr. Alex. Jamieson died at Hagges, 15 April, 1675, and buried at Govean, Munday, 17 April."—Excerpt from Sir Geo. Maxwell's Diary.

† We find mention of Friar John of Govan in an indenture between John Stewart, an "honorabyll mane, the first provost that was in the cite of Glasgw, on the ta part, and discreyt religiouse men. Frer Johne of Govan, priour to the Freris of Glasgw." The charter is dated Glasgow, 18th December, 1454.

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CHAPTER XIV.

THE HISTORIC YEAR 1864—VILLAGERS' MEETING CONVENED BY SHERIFF STRATHERN—EXTRAORDINARY HOUSING CONDITIONS — FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS — THE "FIRST MINUTES" — QUAINT ENTRIES FROM THE COUNCIL RECORDS—THE OLD VILLAGE COMMITTEE—THE GOVAN COMMONS.

The earliest indication we have of what may be termed the awakening of the burgher instinct in the villagers of Govan is found in the opening month of the year 1864. A petition was then presented to the Sheriff of Lanarkshire praying for burghal rights. This petition is of the greatest interest to all inhabitants of our burgh, and I transcribe the opening or more important section, *in toto*, as follows :—

> "Unto the Honourable the Sheriff of the County of Lanark. The Petition of the undersigned Householders residing in the village of Govan, in the County of Lanark, and in the neighbourhood thereof,—Humbly Sheweth—
>
> "That within the last few years, from the increase of iron shipbuilding and other works within the district, the population within the same has greatly increased and a large number of additional buildings have been erected and new streets opened up. That at present the district is imperfectly watched and the roads and streets within the same are insufficiently lighted, cleansed, and drained.
>
> "That your petitioners, under these circumstances, and in order to meet the wants of the inhabitants of the district, are desirous that the powers and provisions enacted in and granted by the Act 25th and 26th Victoria, cap. 101, entitled, 'An Act to make more effectual provision for regulating the police of towns and populous places in Scotland, and for lighting, cleansing, paving, draining, supplying water to and improving the same, and also for promoting the public health thereof,' should be introduced into the said district, and applied in and over the said locality and others as comprehended within the boundaries following."

Here follows the "boundary" of the district, and also the interesting statement "that according to the last census the population within the foresaid district

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amounted to about Nine Thousand." The petition is signed by:—

Morris Pollok, Govan Factory.
George Wink, Eden Villa.
John Hinshelwood, Greenhaugh Street.
John Leckie, 3 Nithsdale Place, Paisley Road.
John M'Farlane, Greenfield Place.
Peter Reid, Greenfield Cottage.
J. S. Bryce, Crossbank Cottage.
W. Weir, Langlands.
James Craig, Middleton.
D. Kinghorn, Buckingham Road.
Heinr Quistorp, Ibrox Terrace.
John Morrison, Murrows Park.
James M'Kim, Alma Place.
Rob. Carswell, 3 Osborne Terrace.
Wm. Gilchrist, 2 Victoria Place.
John Mitchell, Moore Park.
Thomas Reid, Broomloan Cottage.
Rob. Brown, 10 Ibrox Terrace.
T. L. Paterson, for self and co-proprietors of Broomloan.
John M'Harg, Carlton Villa, Ibrox Park.
John Strachan, 1 Avondale Place.
Robert Cassells, 6 Woodvale Place, Copeland Road.

On the 30th of March, 1864, Sheriff Alison considered the foregoing petition and appointed notice of the same to be given by public advertisement "once in each of the 'Glasgow Herald,' 'North British Daily Mail,' and 'Morning Journal' newspapers" The following month the sheriff remitted to William Fulton, schoolmaster and session clerk of Govan and registrar for the Govan district, to make a return of the population, the figures returned being 9260.

A meeting of the householders of Govan village, convened by Sheriff-Substitute Strathern, was held in the Industrial School, Broomloan, on 6th May, 1864. This was in compliance with a requisition to that effect, and was for the purpose of considering the propriety of adopting, in whole or in part, the Police Act of 1862. Mr. Morris Pollok moved that they adopt the whole of the Act, and this was seconded by Dr. A. M'Fie Smith. In the course of this gentleman's speech we are afforded a curious glimpse of the village life of those days—a glimpse, indeed, which makes one pause and wonder if these were really "the good old times." I quote him verbatim.

"It was justly regarded as one of the dirtiest and

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most unhealthy districts in Scotland. (Applause.) The very rapid extension of the shipbuilding trade had thrown into the district a population considerably in excess of the house accommodation, and the amount of overcrowding which existed was something very extraordinary.

"It was by no means uncommon to find in a very small apartment a man and his wife and six lodgers, and it was not a very wonderful thing to find more. There were sometimes nine; nay, within the last few days he had been told of a case where there was *a man and three children and 14 lodgers in a room and kitchen.* When he was asked how it was possible that so large a number could be crowded into so small a space, he was told that part of the men worked during the day and part during the night, so that as one squad turned out another turned in. (Laughter.)"

Under the Act which these early burghers sought to adopt they would have power to remedy such a grossly unhealthy—not to speak of immoral—state of matters. The drainage also appears to have been deplorable, and fever and small-pox quite an every-day occurrence in the old village, and it is satisfactory to find that the meeting resolved to adopt the whole Act. After the usual formalities had been gone through, commissioners were appointed, and henceforth Govan was launched on its career as a burgh.

The first meeting of commissioners took place on the sixth day of June, 1864, at twelve noon, within the small hall, Greenhaugh Street. There were present:—Messrs. Morris Pollok, silk factory, Govan; Alexander Thomson, farmer, Fairfield; James M'Kean, grocer; Peter Hutcheson, gardener; George Wishart, grocer; Thomas Reid, Govan Road; John Hinshelwood, Govan; Andrew Fowler, Cessnock; John Dobbie, shipbuilder; William Cruickshank, Ibroxholm; John Morrison, Copeland Road, and William Weir, Langlands. These gentlemen were the commissioners elected at a meeting of householders held in Govan on the 2nd of June for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the General Police (Scotland) Act of 1862.

I give the now historic "first minutes" of the municipality of Govan.

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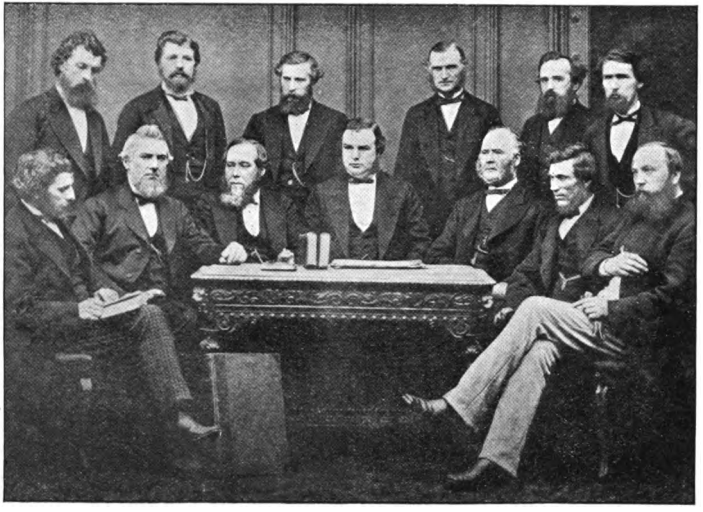
Top Row—*left to right*—Archibald M'Lean. Mr. Thomson. Alex. Campbell. George Wishart. John M'Farlane. John M'Kechnie.



From a photograph in possession of Bailie M'Kechnie.

Bottom Row—*left to right*—W. M. Wilson (*Town Clerk*). John Hinshelwood. James Wilson. Thos. Reid (*Provost*). Alex. M'Kim. Peter Hutchison. George Ledingham.

The Govan Commissioners of 1871.

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"The meeting unanimously elected the said Morris Pollok to be chairman of the meeting, and Robert Carswell, writer, Glasgow, as interim clerk. The meeting, on the motion of Mr. John Hinshelwood, seconded by Mr. William Weir, unanimously elected Mr. Morris Pollok to be senior magistrate for the burgh.

"Mr. Alexander Thomson moved, seconded by Mr. George Wishart, that Mr. Andrew Fowler be elected one of the junior magistrates, which motion, being put to the meeting, was unanimously agreed to.

"Mr. James M'Kean proposed and moved that Mr. John Morrison be elected one of the junior magistrates, which motion was seconded by Mr. Alexander Thomson.

"Mr. Andrew Fowler proposed and moved that Mr. William Cruickshank be elected one of the junior magistrates, which motion was seconded by Mr. John Hinshelwood. Mr. Cruickshank was elected by six votes to three.

"The meeting thereafter unanimously appointed and do hereby appoint the said Robert Carswell to be clerk to the commissioners and clerk of the police-court, with all the powers conferred by the statute, at a salary of fifty pounds per annum, and the said Robert Carswell, being present, agreed to accept of the offices.

"Mr. Alexander Thomson moved that the magistrates, along with Mr. John Morrison, be appointed a committee to make inquiry into the relative advantages of establishing a separate police for the burgh or amalgamating with the county force, and to report their views to another meeting, which motion was seconded by Mr. John Hinshelwood and unanimously agreed to.

"The meeting remitted to the magistrates to arrange for a place in which meetings of the commissioners may be held, and to report to next meeting of the commissioners.

"The meeting agreed and hereby agree to adjourn this meeting till Monday the thirteenth current, at seven o'clock p.m. The meeting to take place within the small hall.

"In testimony whereof, this minute, written by the said Robert Carswell, is subscribed by the chairman to authenticate the same.

"(Signed) Morris Pollok."

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The good ship Govan was now fairly launched, and the crew lost no time in getting everything aboard put into a thoroughly shipshape and workmanlike condition. The committee referred to recommended a "separate police force," and a superintendent of police was advertised for at a salary of £115 per annum. Mr. David Young, depute chief constable for the county of Renfrew, was appointed, and the force put at his command consisted of an inspector and eleven men. These were divided into three classes, the salaries being—1st class, 20s. per week; 2nd class, 19s. per week; and 3rd class, 18s. per week; the inspector having 24s. per week. A hundred special constables were also sworn in "to assist the police in the event of an emergency." The appointment of other officials followed rapidly.

Mr. James Bowes,* accountant in the branch of the City of Glasgow Bank in Govan, was appointed treasurer, his salary being three per cent. upon the amount of assessment recovered—he "to find security for £500 for his intromissions."

At a meeting on the 29th of August, 1864, Mr. Thomson moved that Dr. Barras be appointed police surgeon, and Mr. Morrison proposed Dr. Aitken for the position. On a vote, Dr. Aitken was appointed. The salary was £10 sterling per annum, and this included attending cases at the police office and attendance on the police constables. Three lamplighters for the burgh were also appointed at the same meeting. The following meeting—26th September, 1864—the rate of assessment for police purposes for the year 1864-65 was fixed at ninepence per pound.

On the 17th November, 1864, the commissioners agreed to remit to the Lighting Committee the selection of a suitable design for a burgh common seal, and on the 22nd of December the meeting approved of the same, and agreed that the motto for the seal should be the now well-known and justly celebrated "Nihil sine labore" ("Nothing without labour").

The foregoing extracts complete the "minutes" of the year, but as during the next four years many

* The father of James Bowes, C.A., Glasgow, the present burgh auditor.

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interesting and curious entries are to be found in the records, all bearing upon the inner early burghal life, I thought it proper, for the purposes of this history, to cull the most outstanding of these.

In the minutes of June, 1865, we read that the commissioners consented to the managers of the Govan Free Church "removing the present thorn hedge on the north side of the Govan Road and replacing the same with a stone wall and railing." This church stood at the end of what is now the big graving dock. The question of want of space in the graveyard of Govan occupied, apparently, some time at the meeting of the commissioners in August, the complaint being that "it was insufficient in size and unfitted for the purposes of burial, and that steps should be taken to have this remedied or a new graveyard provided." This matter was remedied eventually. At the following meeting—17th August, 1865—an offer of a piece of ground in Albert Street was accepted, and the meeting remitted to the Building Committee "to procure plans for the proposed police office," the cost to be "not more than £4000." The Board were bent on setting their house in order, and in April, 1866, the matter of expense in connection with the erection of "a house for the fire-engine" was under consideration. In June, 1866, the commissioners resolved that the hour of the meeting of "the statutory meetings fixed by the Act should take place at seven o'clock p.m., in place of twelve noon." Postal facilities in these early burghal days were of a rather primitive character, as we find, in a minute of August, 1866, in reply to the application of the commissioners, a letter from the General Post Office acceding to an additional delivery of letters to the inhabitants of Copeland Road, Ibrox-holm, and district, but declining to erect a letter pillar-box for the west end of Govan. At the same meeting the magistrates "thought it desirable, in view of the threatened attack of cholera, that accommodation for the reception of patients be provided." In September, 1867, the commissioners appointed the Buildings Committee to act as dean of guild, and also remitted to the Halls Committee to see about the necessary furniture and accommodation of the magistrates' court hall.

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A curious entry is found in the minutes of October, 1867, when "measures were adopted in regard to the disturbed state of the country arising from Fenianism." It was also suggested that the commissioners of Govan should apply to the Home Office for "at least half a dozen revolvers and such other arms as the Home Office might think fit to supply." This was in view of the fact that there was in the burgh a large "labouring class, mixed in nationality, a considerable proportion of whom would be doubtless most susceptible to Fenian influences and impressions." It is interesting to find that the Home Office gave orders for the issue of ten revolvers to the police of Govan. The Fenian scare was apparently felt keenly in Govan, and at a meeting of the inhabitants held in the Police Buildings on the 30th December, 1867, upwards of 900 special constables were enrolled to act in case of emergency. Bailie Hinshelwood voiced the feelings of the people. In a public speech he said, "We may give all Fenians a touch of the auld Scottish thistle and remind them that no one may assail it with impunity." This "Fenian rising" appears to have created quite a scare in the minds of the good burghers of Govan. Upon one memorable day in '68, still remembered by not a few of the old Govanites who took part in the proceedings, the "special constables" assembled on what was then a common now the site of the Prince's Docks. They were all armed with batons, and a brave show indeed they made. Immense crowds surrounded the little body of "specials," and matters for a time looked very threatening. The provost addressed the band, and then, accompanied by the chief constable—both on horseback—headed the constables and led them down Govan Road to the Police Chambers, where they lay "under arms" all that day. Nothing, however, occurred to disturb the peace of the community, and after being plentifully regaled with ham sandwiches and something to "wash them down," the "specials" were disbanded and wended their several ways homeward—doubtless with the innate feeling that Govan had expected every man to do his duty, and he had done so! It may be here remarked that the Fenians never did anything in the burgh calling for special mention,

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the readiness with which the "specials" had rallied to the call of duty probably exercising a restraining influence on these disturbers of the country's peace.

On the 13th of January, 1868, the commissioners agreed to provide "200 batons to be kept in store for the use of the special constables in the burgh." At a subsequent meeting—15th June—it was unanimously resolved "that the hour of meeting of the statutory meetings fixed by the General Police Improvement (Scotland) Act, 1862, should be seven o'clock instead of twelve o'clock noon, and also that the other monthly meetings should be held at seven o'clock p.m."

Previous to the adoption of the General Police Aet, there was no legally constituted body within Govan who in any way represented the public interest of the inhabitants. A number of years prior to 1864, however, a public meeting of the Feuars and inhabitants was called and a committee of their number elected, with a chairman, for the purpose of attending to the interests of the community in the roads and "commons" within Govan. This committee called an annual meeting of the feuars and inhabitants, when the new committee was appointed for the ensuing year and other business transacted. The main object of the movement was to watch and prevent any encroachments on the "commons."

This common ground, it seems, lay in detached pieces near the Clyde, and its value in 1864 (when shipbuilding was increasing rapidly) was estimated at from £6000 to £8000. From time immemorial the Govanites enjoyed the possession of these grounds. The villagers put it to such uses as pasturing cattle, cutting peat and divot, washing, bleaching, and drying clothes, as a playground for their children, and for purposes of recreation and amusement.

The village committee alluded to above was formed at the beginning of the year 1856. On the 25th day of June of that year, an agreement was drawn up between the Govan villagers' "roads and commons committee" (as it was termed by the inhabitants) and the Clyde Trustees, whereby the latter body was allowed to take possession of a portion of the "commons" lying to the east of the village. The Trust

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required this bit of ground—its area amounted to 4,694 square yards—for river improvements, *i.e.*, the dumping of dredged material. The price fixed was 12s. per square yard, and it was agreed that the price should remain in the hands of the Clyde Trustees "in the name and for behoof of the said committee, until a valid conveyance should be given for the same." Interest was made payable at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

The villagers enjoyed a right of servitude over the common without molestation or challenge until in or about the year 1862. The then village representatives, and latterly the commissioners, managed, however, to conserve the inhabitants' rights. The Trust had taken possession of the "common"—Princes Dock was constructed on its site—but no price or interest had been paid. However, in 1878 an Act was passed in Parliament (the Govan Burgh Bill), the municipality being authorised to sell, exchange, feu out, or let on lease, the commons "for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the burgh."

The commissioners were also authorised to receive from the Clyde Trustees the price and interest of the common taken possession of according to the agreement with the village committee in 1856. The aggregate amount of price and interest came to the respectable total of £4,551. As an example of the benefits accruing to the burgh from this capital, and the feu-duties obtained for the portions of the commons feued, the yield last year was £374. This was carried to the revenue account of the public parks assessment, serving thereby to relieve taxation.

The Princes Dock was, as I have remarked, constructed on this common. It is part of the harbour of Glasgow, but is within the territory of Govan burgh. The watching, lighting, and cleansing is carried out by the Clyde Trustees, and in virtue of this Govan allows an abatement of no less than ¼ parts of the assessment levied upon the Trust property within the burgh.

The commons referred to are mostly built over now, what was once waste land being occupied by miles of streets. The principal of these lands were the Langlands and Drumoyne commons, extending along the

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north side of Langlands Road; the Craigton commons, lying on both sides of the road, called the Common Loan, between Harmony Row and Langlands Road; Harmony Loan or Harmony Row commons, extending along the east side of Harmony Row; Middleton or East End commons, extending in a south-easterly direction from Whitefield Road to Cessnock Road; Clydebrae commons, extending along the east side of Main Street; and Orchard Place commons, lying between Orchard Place and Main Street.

The expenses incurred in procuring titles for these "commons" were considered a great grievance at the time, and were productive of much heart-burning. The matter was entered into by the majority of the commissioners on the expectation that the bill would be next to an unopposed measure, and it was eventually passed by both Houses of Parliament. Then came accounts, embracing not a few startling items, to the extent of £3232 19s. 11d. for promoting the bill—nearly the half of which was claimed by two firms.

The bill, in its original form, sought to obtain powers to increase the number of magistrates, a re-distribution of wards, etc., but these were all cut out during its consideration by Parliament, and only that part pertaining to the Govan burgh commons left. On coming up for approval in 1879—the bill was promoted in the spring of 1878—the expenses repeatedly formed the subject of animated discussions at not a few of the monthly meetings of the commissioners, and also when the Finance and Parliamentary Committees sat. At one time it was agreed to shelve the matter for a month, and at another to remit the accounts back to the committee.

Eventually they were ordered to be printed, and the result was the production of a bulky blue-book, containing 60 pages of detailed accounts, embracing items which would, no doubt, somewhat astonish the ratepayers and make some of them emit exclamations of surprise. The commissioners finally, by a small majority, refused to pay the accounts until they were gone over by neutral parties preparatory to being audited, and subsequently the whole affair was settled satisfactorily.

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The following is a short abstract showing the value of the commons and the expenses incurred :—

GOVAN COMMONS.

Prices paid and to be paid for the following conveyances of portions of the commons :—

Clyde Trustees.—Amount of deposit receipt dated Feb. 13, 1878	£4551	3	11
Interest to May 15th	158	18	1
Purchase price of Middleton Commons	4771	10	0
	£9481	12	0
Conveyance to Messrs. J. & T. A. Marshall by way of feu contract.—Feu duty, £26 12s. 2d., equivalent at 20 years' purchase to	532	3	4
Conveyance to Mr. Alexander by way of feu contract.—Feu duty, £20 8s., equivalent at 20 years' purchase to	408	0	0
Conveyance to Mr. Sim by way of feu contract.—Feu duty, £25 16s. 7d., equivalent at 20 years' purchase to	516	11	8
William Kemp.—Feu duty, £7 18s. 5d., equivalent at 20 years' purchase to	158	8	0
M'Kinnon & Thomson. — Feu duty, £17 5s. 7d., equivalent at 20 years' purchase to	345	12	0
Hinshelwood's trustees. — Conveyance by disposition, price	235	10	0
Colin Dunlop & Co.—2250 square yards of Drumoyne Commons, 5s. per square yard	562	10	0
	£12,240	7	0
Price of the commons realised and yet to be realised as above, say	12,240	7	0

EXPENSES OF PROCURING THE ACT.

Law and Parliamentary charges, including expenses of opposition agreed to be paid	1718	1	6
Engineer's account and lithographer's charge	720	0	0
Advertising accounts	79	17	3
Stationery	4	7	10
Searches	17	9	6
Witnesses' fees and expenses	341	0	0
Miscellaneous	2	1	4
	£2882	17	5

Correlative Accounts—					
Action, Hinshelwood's Trustees *v.* Commissioners	£52	9	1		
Compensation for extinction of servitudes	183	0	0		
Accounts incurred in relation to such extinction, etc.	114	13	5		
				350	2	6
Grand total				£3232	19	11
Free balance...				£9007	7	1

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CHAPTER XV.

GOVAN IN 1864—POPULATION AND TRADE—EXTRAORDINARY INCREASE—ANNEXATION—THE FRUITS OF VICTORY—THE MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS—POLICE AND SANITATION DEPARTMENTS—BURGH AREA—STATISTICS *re* DEATH-RATE AND ASSESSABLE RENTAL—A PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION—PROVOSTS AND TOWN CLERKS—MONUMENTS—THE DOCKS.

In the course of a newspaper sketch published in 1864 Govan is described as "a village" with a predominance of thatched houses and wearing a genuine old-world look! Truly, "the scene has changed"! A densely-populated industrial town has taken the place of the ancient village and well-nigh obliterated every trace of it. The pleasantly-wooded country villas which once adorned the river banks from Plantation to Linthouse are all gone. The few that linger are for the most part only to be found, after diligent search, imbedded in the public works—some doing duty as offices, others as store-rooms for scrap-iron, their finely-facaded, old greystone faces looking strangely out of place 'midst their matter-of-fact surroundings.

Of theekit houses, once upon a time the feature of rural Govan, a few linger on. The searcher in the bye-ways of the modern burgh will light upon one or two buried in the midst of tall and sober-coloured tenements, whose raking height and barrack-like structures carefully prevent a glimpse of sunshine cheering the old-world cottage with its warmth.

How have these changes come about? The leading, we might say the only, factor has been the enormous development of the engineering and shipbuilding industries of the Clyde, in which Govan has borne such a prominent and honourable part. Let us glance at a few figures powerfully illustrating the statement.

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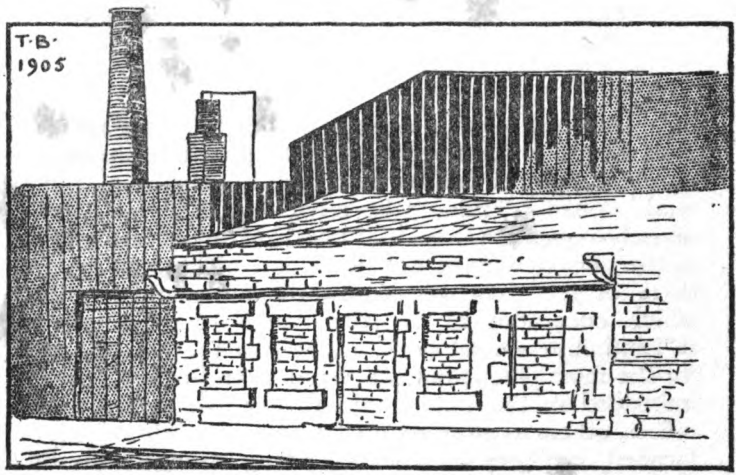
Since its attainment to municipal rank in June, 1864, by the adoption of the Lindsay Act, the progress of Govan in population, trade, and importance presents, probably, the most notable example of rapid urban growth to be found in the United Kingdom. It is doubtful, indeed, whether in Australia or America there could be found greater evidence of quick increase in population. When burghal responsibilities were assumed the population was 9058; to-day it has reached the enormous figure of 91,103, and the past decade has witnessed, notwithstanding the intervention



Old Weaver's Cottage, Main Street.
(Now part of the London and Glasgow Co.'s shipyard wall.)

of severe trade depression, an almost unexampled increase in wealth and population.

A further example of the burgh's progress is furnished by the comparison of the assessable rentals of 1864 and 1904. The figures for the former year give the modest sum of £40,014; for the latter £420,597. These figures speak eloquently of the immense stride taken in the forty years of burghal existence. Govan now occupies the coveted and honourable position of being the most largely populated and important police burgh in Scotland, while in respect of population it is

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at present the fifth, and in respect of rental the seventh burgh, royal, parliamentary, or otherwise, north of the Tweed! The "village" industries have all vanished, except the silk factory, and such measure of agriculture as is compatible with the presence of a large and yearly spreading population.

In their place we find five shipbuilding yards, four of which will rank with the largest in the world; and, in addition, the numerous public works embrace nearly every branch of the iron and metal trades, including bridge girder building, bolt, rivet, tube, and boiler making, iron and brass founding, lead-pipe and sheet making, copper smithing, crane building, the production of railway plant and railway appliances of various kinds, chain making, and steel making. The following trades and manufactures are also carried on, and provide work for thousands:—Flour milling, bread making, starch making, the spinning and weaving of silk and wool, manufacture of hair, cabinet and chair making, match making, file cutting, saw milling, block making, manufacture of nautical instruments, boat building, and tarpaulin making.

Indeed, the Govan of to-day can be fittingly described as one of the great workshops of the world. Within its boundaries it is impossible to get beyond the sound of the hammer. From early morn till late at night we hear the continuous hum of industry—telling of the spirited policy of business administration which directs the helm of the burgh's affairs.

Intimately associated with Govan's success and progress is the conduct of municipal work. Fortunate, indeed, in this respect has been the burgh's experience, capable and able men having never been wanting for the civic chamber.

The burgh records show that the original members of the then Commission Board were all imbued with the desire to do everything to promote the interests of the ratepayers, and conserve the rights and privileges of the inhabitants. When in June, 1864, Govan adopted the "General Police and Improvement (Scotland) Act, 1862," the sanitary condition of the village was at a very low ebb. The commissioners applied themselves to remedy this state of matters,

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which constituted so grave a danger to the public health, and the burgh was speedily put into a thoroughly sound sanitary condition. For a number of years matters went on smoothly enough, and the principal business the commissioners had to attend to was the administration of the Police Act, the forming and taking over of public streets, and the various other details which go to make up the ordinary routine work of the Board.

But a grave and until 1868 unsuspected trouble lay ahead. Periodically since that year the commissioners have had to defend themselves in Parliament against the repeated and persistent attempts of Glasgow to annex the burgh to the city. The fight for freedom has proved a long, bitter, and costly one. It may be said to have culminated in 1891, when Glasgow brought all its mighty resources of wealth and influence to bear on the struggle. Govan, thanks to the fine fighting qualities displayed by her civic representatives, combined with the excellent legal case made out for her by the late respected town clerk, Mr. Alexander Macdonald, emerged triumphant from the conflict, the House of Lords giving a unanimous decision in favour of our burgh and against annexation.

The fruits of victory are sometimes bitter—sometimes sweet. For Govan they have proved sweet indeed. To-day she is sounder financially and otherwise than ever in her history. Since that fight her civic representatives, with the full consent of the community, have given the burgh a municipal equipment second to none. This includes a beautiful and commodious town hall and very fine municipal offices, erected at a cost of about £60,000. The building was completed in 1899, and formally opened by Provost Kirkwood in October, 1901.

Situated at the corner of Summertown Road and Govan Road, adjacent to the Prince's Dock, the accommodation comprises a large hall with grand organ, seated for 2500; a lesser hall to hold 500 people; municipal office, with splendid suite of rooms for the various officials, together with a handsome and artistically furnished council chamber, provost's room, committee rooms, library, luncheon and retiring rooms.

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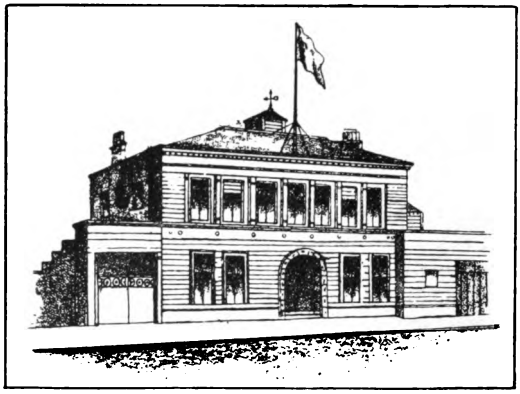
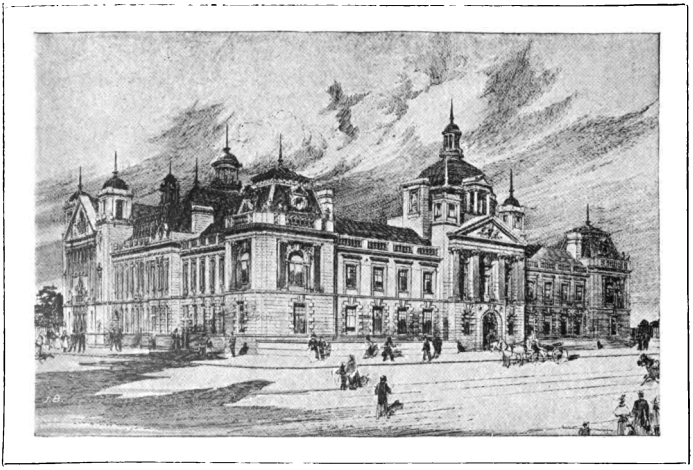


Municipal Buildings, 1868.



Municipal Buildings, 1905.

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The officials' departments included in the really magnificent pile of municipal chambers are:—On ground floor—the town clerk's; the treasurer and collector of rates; the inspector of weights and measures; dean of guild's court-room; telephone exchange and curator's office. On the upper storey there are the offices of the surveyor and master of works; the sanitary inspector and staff; and bacterological laboratory for the medical officer of health for the burgh.

All the departments named are housed and equipped in a manner worthy of the best traditions of municipal life, and will bear comparison with those of any other municipality in Scotland. Indeed, with probably the exceptions of Edinburgh and Glasgow—and even these far-famed municipalities do not surpass our burgh official establishment—Govan has the finest and best-equipped municipal chambers north of the Tweed.

They form a fitting monument to the industry and business acumen of the virile community of our burgh.

Their magnificence, when compared with the former burgh chambers and with the old official establishment in Hillock House, is typical of the progress which has attended the career of Govan since 1864.

In 1901 public baths were opened in Summertown Road. These were erected at a cost of £23,000, and consist of two swimming-ponds, each 75ft. by 35ft., with the usual hot baths, gymnasium, and a gallery to seat 600 persons on gala nights. In addition to these public benefits, there are three police offices, with all modern requirements. The central offices occupy what were formerly the burgh chambers in Albert Street.

These were erected in 1867, and restored after a fire which destroyed part of them in 1882. They have a good architectural frontage, Italian in style, and are, internally, convenient and commodious. There is a large hall, used as the court-room, capable of accommodating 600 persons, a magistrates' room, accommodation for the chief constable, lieutenants' and detectives' rooms, and in up-to-date police equipment the establishment will compare favourably with that of any kindred burgh. Attached to the police chambers is a fire station, constructed on the most modern principles, with a sub-station at Plantation. There are also sub-

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police offices at Plantation—purchased and altered 1874-75, and extended 1892-93—and Fairfield (1883-84). At the last, which, though small, may be termed a model building, there is also a mortuary.

The police force consists of a chief constable, 4 lieutenants, 8 inspectors, 11 sergeants, and 95 constables. All the municipal establishments are connected by telephone, and for police and fire purposes the system is so carefully elaborated that there is telephonic connections between the police offices and all corners of the burgh and outskirts.

For the benefit of the large industrial population, whose members are so liable to meet with serious accident while engaged in their daily employment, a fully-equipped ambulance waggon is maintained at the public expense, while more than half of the constables are fully trained to give first-aid to the injured.

The sanitation of the town is carefully looked after by a competent sanitary and cleansing staff, and that this supervision is efficient the health of the community amply betokens. Evidence of the highest character in this direction is afforded by the statistical inquiry into the causes of death within the burgh for 35 years—1864 to 1898—by Dr. W. G. Barras, the assistant medical officer. His tables show that the annual death-rate of 1864 was 33·22, which gradually decreased until, in 1898, it was only 16·08.* Govan has a death-rate lower than that for all Scotland, and also lower as compared with that of the eight principal Scottish towns.

Such facts as these speak volumes for the administrative abilities of the men who have charge of the burgh's well-being. In connection with the sanitation and cleansing of the district, a refuse destructor was erected in Helen Street in 1900-1 for the treatment of street and other refuse, the work accomplished in this direction being most satisfactory.

The excellent lighting of the burgh places it far distant from the pale of a "city of dreadful night." Of gas lamps, there were, in 1903, upwards of 1300, and since that year the Watching and Lighting Committee have erected 210 electric lamps, thus keeping well

*These figures do not include deaths in infirmaries, public institutions, etc.

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abreast of the times in the matter of street lighting. In 1892 the Council obtained a Provisional Order for lighting the burgh by electricity, and in 1900 inaugurated a supply, which has been taken advantage of generally by the inhabitants both for lighting and motive power.

The burgh has a handsome post office (adjoining the Cross), with money order, savings bank, insurance and telegraph departments; a railway station (goods); offices of the Union, Royal (2), National, and British Linen Company Banks; a branch of the Glasgow Savings Bank, and agencies of a number of insurance companies.

Prior to 1893 the burgh was divided into four wards (which recalls the old divisions, before alluded to in the text, of counties and towns), each of which returned three commissioners, but a re-division took place in that year into six wards, burghal affairs being managed by a provost, six magistrates, and eleven commissioners. As the years progressed, the pleasant residential quarter of Linthouse, or South Govan, assumed the dignity of aspiring to municipal representation, and a plebiscite of the ratepayers therein, taken towards the close of 1900, showed a majority in favour of becoming part and parcel of Govan burgh. Application was then made to the powers that be, and Linthouse, or Ward VII., was added by deliverance of Sheriff Berry on the 14th of March, 1901, and confirmed by the First Division of the Court of Session on 2nd July, 1901. The first three gentlemen appointed to the Council by vote of the ratepayers in the new ward were Mr. William Dickson, Dr. J. F. M'Fadyen, and Mr. Peter Macfarlane.

Altogether, Govan is as well equipped for municipal, social, educational, religious, industrial, and general civic purposes as any town in Scotland.

Take into consideration the fact that taxation in the burgh is less than in the city, and combined with the many advantages described, a powerful argument is adduced in support of an independent burghal life. It cannot be gainsayed that, had the city succeeded in annexing the burgh, the advantages now enjoyed by the members of this hard-working community would never have been theirs.

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Instead, Govan would have degenerated into the position of a second-rate ward of the city, would doubtless have suffered from social and civic ostracism, would have had her wants attended to—when there was time—and the combined views of her three representatives at George Square would have been like unto the voice of one crying in the wilderness.

In point of position the burgh lies to the south-west of Glasgow, and extends two miles from east to west, and one and one-eighth mile from north to south. It contains an area of 1319 acres, and has a river frontage of upwards of two miles. It is bounded by Glasgow on the east, and by the Glasgow and South-Western Railway on the south. At the time of its formation into a statutory burgh—1864—the open country between it and the built portion of Glasgow was upwards of a mile, while the latter was unbuilt upon in the direction of its boundary with Govan for at least half a mile—with the exception of a few country villas here and there. In the course of years this space has been gradually built over, so that the two places now adjoin each other at the point of junction of the two highways from Paisley and Govan to the city—at the toll.

By the Town Councils (Scotland) Act, 1900, and the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1903, the municipal powers were considerably extended. The term "commissioner" is now no longer employed, and the corporate name of councils in all burghs is "provost, magistrates, and councillors," who are declared to be a body corporate with a common seal. Govan is now governed by a provost, six magistrates, and fourteen councillors, and by the Licensing (Scotland) Act, 1903, the magistrates are appointed the licensing authority for the burgh.

The following statistics show at a glance the immense development of Govan since, in 1864, burghal responsibilities were assumed :—

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1864-1904.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1000.	Assessable Rental.
1864, ...	9,058	299	33·009	£40,014
1865, ...	9,637	291	30·196	39,286
1866, ...	9,913	245	24·715	44,233
1867, ...	10,027	292	29·121	46,097
1868, ...	11,148	267	23·054	48,402
1869, ...	12,528	331	26·420	53,169
1870, ...	14,383	367	25·516	62,060
1871, ...	18,667	496	26·570	73,429
1872, ...	23,313	594	25·479	91,844
1873, ...	28,764	726	25·292	108,236
1874, ...	33,126	1018	30·731	126,219
1875, ...	36,152	1003	27·743	140,962
1876, ...	39,852	925	23·211	154,818
1877, ...	42,631	1047	24·559	173,211
1878, ...	45,134	1035	22·931	185,203
1879, ...	43,153	962	22·292	189,952
1880, ...	46,383	1049	22·616	212,518
1881, ...	49,560	1210	24·414	211,672
1882, ...	55,417	1221	22·032	199,876
1883, ...	58,805	1352	22·991	209,685
1884, ...	58,569	1173	20·007	221,429
1885, ...	55,463	1140	20·554	222,278
1886, ...	54,687	1081	19·767	213,815
1887, ...	54,130	1104	20·395	209,360
1888, ...	54,657	896	16·393	206,882
1889, ...	57,236	1004	17·541	209,041
1890, ...	61,688	1247	20·214	219,548
1891, ...	62,911	1234	19·615	230,000
1892, ...	63,370	1103	17·405	236,555
1893, ...	63,197	1381	21·852	236,580
1894, ...	63,790	1015	15·911	239,453
1895, ...	64,922	1192	18·360	245,767
1896, ...	67,436	1166	17·290	257,362
1897, ...	69,452	1322	19·033	271,580
1898, ...	72,755	1335	18·349	286,160
1899, ...	76,306	1398	18·320	314,855
1900, ...	78,532	1562	19·889	343,388
1901, ...	84,970	1581	19·494	346,806
1902, ...	88,868	1631	18·353	378,124
1903, ...	91,103	1730	18·989	394,377
1904, ...	90,908	1635	17·985	420,597

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Govan was raised to the dignity of a Parliamentary Division in 1884, it having been previously included in North Lanarkshire. In common with many other places, it was found that such an important shire was not adequately represented in Parliament, and on the passing of the Redistribution of Seats Act (1884), the county was divided and the Division of Govan created. The Govan Division includes the burgh and municipality of Govan and Govanhill—the latter being part of the old ecclesiastical parish. The first election took place on Friday, 4th December, 1885, and created much political excitement in the burgh, which had never previously been in close touch with Parliamentary representation. Candidates were not awanting, and three gentlemen freely canvassed the opinion of the electors and sought their support.

These were Sir William Pearce, who stood in the Conservative interest; Mr. Bennet Burleigh, the famous war correspondent, who, it is interesting to mention, is a native of Govan; and Mr. D. G. Hoey, accountant, Glasgow. The two latter gentlemen sought the suffrages of the electors on a Liberal platform. After some controversy, Mr. Hoey retired in favour of Mr. Burleigh, and the latter and Mr. Pearce went to the poll. The contest was a keen one, and resulted as follows:—Pearce (Conservative), 3677; Burleigh (Liberal), 3522. Sir William Pearce was therefore elected the first member for the Govan Division by a majority of 155. Shortly afterwards there was a general election.

Sir William again offered his services in the Conservative interest, and the Liberals secured as a candidate Mr. Thomas Dickson, formerly a member of Parliament for Dungannon. The election was held on Friday, 9th July, 1886, and resulted:—Pearce (Conservative), 3574; Dickson (Liberal), 3212; the Conservative being returned by the augmented majority of 362.

On the death of Sir William Pearce in London on the 18th of December, 1888, a vacancy again occurred in the representation of the division. Mr. John Wilson, of Hillhead House, was brought forward as the adopted Liberal candidate, and Sir John Pender, of

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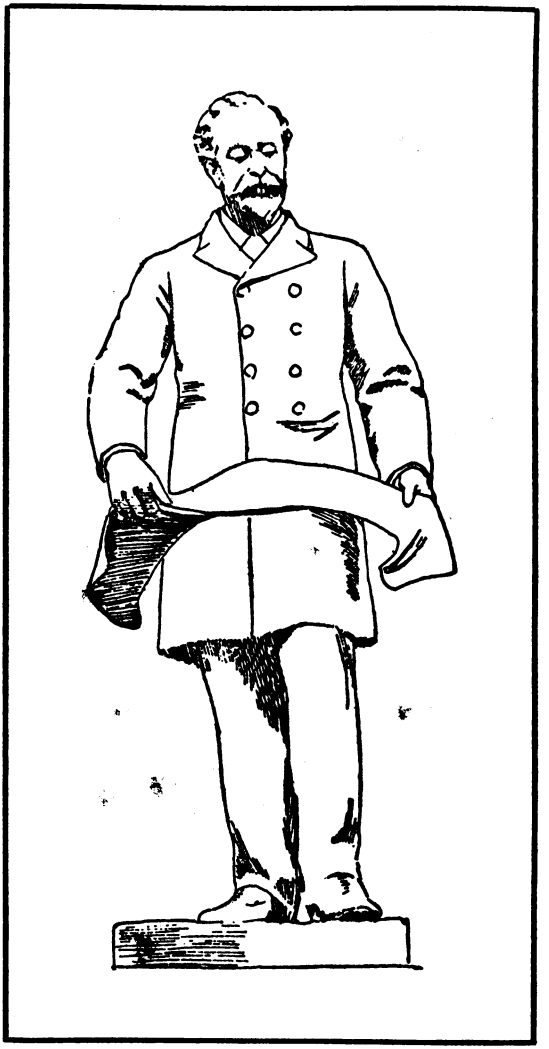

Statue of Sir William Pearce.

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London, who formerly sat for the Wick Burghs, became the Unionist candidate. After a brisk contest, the election took place on the 18th of January, 1889, when Mr. Wilson was returned by a majority of 1071. The figures were:—Wilson (Gladstonian Liberal), 4420; Pender (Unionist), 3349.

Since then the following alterations have taken place :—1892—J. Wilson (G.L.), 4829 ; N. Spens (L.U.), 3829. 1895—J. Wilson (R.), 4290 ; G. Ferguson (L.U.), 4029 ; A. Haddow (Ind. Lab.), 430. 1900—R. Hunter Craig (R.), 5744 ; R. Duncan (C.), 5580.

During these forty years, from 1864 to 1904, the burgh has been governed by eleven provosts, including the present civic chief. Mr. Morris Pollok, of the Silk Mill, was the first to hold office, and was elected chief magistrate at the first meeting of commissioners on the 6th of June, 1864. Mr. Pollok held office until the 10th of June, 1867, when Mr. William Cruickshank was elected provost. On 7th June, 1869, Mr. Cruickshank retired, and Mr. Thomas Reid, of Kilmardinny, became the next provost. He held office till the 10th of June, 1872, when Mr. James Wilson, of Bantaskine, assumed the reins of chief magistrate. He held office for eight years, and on his resignation in November, 1880, Mr. John Thompson, of Govan Park, became the provost. Upon the fulfilment of his term, Mr. Alexander Campbell, of Murrough Park House, took office as provost in November, 1883, and he was succeeded in November, 1886, by Mr. George Ferguson, of Trinidad Villa, Ibrox. Mr. Ferguson retired from municipal life in November, 1889, and Mr. Neil M'Lean succeeded to the civic chair.

After a service of two and a half years as chief magistrate, Mr. M'Lean, owing to business reasons, resigned, and in May, 1892, the senior magistrate, Bailie James Kirkwood, of Carling Lodge, was unanimously elected provost. Mr. Kirkwood held office until November, 1901, when Mr. John Marr, of Dunjarg, Ibrox, succeeded to the provostship. At the conclusion of his term of office in November, 1904, Mr. John Anthony, of Dalmeny, Dumbreck, was elected civic chief after a keen contest for the position. He bids fair to worthily uphold the honourable traditions

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The Provosts of Govan—1864 1904.

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associated with this the highest civic post the ratepayers of Govan can bestow upon their municipal representatives.

The following list shows at a glance the various provosts and the years they occupied the chair :—

Morris Pollok, 1864-1867.
William Cruickshank, 1867-1869.
Thomas Reid, 1869-1872.
James Wilson, 1872-1880.
John Thompson, 1880-1883.
Alexander Campbell, 1883-1886.
George Ferguson, 1886-1889.
Neil M'Lean, 1889-1892.
James Kirkwood, 1892-1901.
John Marr, 1901-1904.
John Anthony, 1904.

The responsible position of town clerk of the burgh has always been in the hands of able and clever lawyers, as well as men of undoubted judicial administrative powers, as the burgh records show. Mr. Robert Carswell, writer, Glasgow, was the first gentleman to hold office. He was appointed in June, 1864, and held the reins until his death on the 27th of July, 1867. Mr. W. M. Wilson, writer, Glasgow, was his successor, holding the position until 1879, when he died. Mr. Alexander Macdonald, writer, Glasgow, was appointed town clerk the same year, and filled the office with satisfaction to all until his death in May 1904.

The present gentleman who occupies the position, Mr. James Adamson Houston, writer, is a Govan man born and bred, and few, if any, of his predecessors have had such a grip of burgh affairs as he possesses. Mr. Houston was unanimously appointed town clerk on the decease of Mr. Macdonald.

Although Govan is not rich in the quantity, she is exceptionally rich in the quality of the memorials and monuments to be found within her confines. It is pleasing to find those, who in the past have benefited so much from the labours of the skilled workmen of the burgh evincing such a sense of gratitude and goodwill towards the burghers of Govan as have Lady Pearce and Mrs. John Elder. Their benefactions to the burgh have been indeed truly estimable, and constitute an example, a noble example, which it were well for others like situated to follow. That the continued interest in the burgh's affairs shown by these ladies is appreciated need hardly be said. Such benefits as are conferred on the physical and moral tone of the people by the

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"Pearce Institute" and the Elder Park are incalculable, while the intellectual advantages derived from the Elder Library are of the greatest moment to the rising generation of Govanites.

The Elder Park, costing £50,000, was the gift to the burgh of Mrs. Isabella Ure or Elder as a memorial of the genius and virtues of the celebrated shipbuilder, her husband, John Elder. Its area extends to 35 acres, consisting of an almost rectangular piece of ground adjoining the Govan Road, the eastern limit facing the western boundary of the Fairfield Engineering Works, with which John Elder's career was so intimately connected. The park was formally opened by Lord Rosebery with great eclat, and amid the tumultuous rejoicings of the multitudes, on the 27th June, 1885.

Annual displays of fireworks were provided by Mrs. Elder in the park for many years. Besides the beautiful trees, shrubs, and flowers with which the park is adorned, there is a fine model yachting pond, and also the nucleus of a museum of natural history. The central feature of the park is a statue of John Elder, the cost of which was defrayed by public subscription. It was unveiled on 28th July, 1888, by the Marquis of Lothian, then Secretary for Scotland, in the presence of Mrs. Elder, Lord Ravensworth, and a numerous and distinguished assemblage. The statue, which is of bronze and life size, was the work of the late well-known sculptor, Sir J. E. Bœhm. There will soon be a companion, a statue of the generous donor, Mrs. Elder, having been completed by A. Macfarlane Shannon, of Glasgow. It will be erected in 1906

A further proof of the deep interest taken by that lady in the burgh was afforded by her magnificent gift of £27,000 for the erection of a public free library. This library, which is situated at the south-eastern corner of the park, was opened by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, on the 5th September, 1903, the memorial-stone having been laid by ex-Bailie Andrew Williamson on 4th October, 1902. Among the conditions attached to the gift is one declaring that the library shall be open on Sundays at suitable hours, and this stipulation is made a fundamental condition of the gift.

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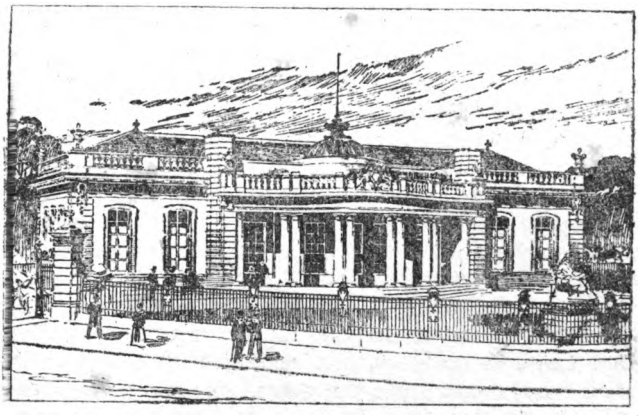
It may be mentioned that of the £27,000 the sum of £10,000 was to build and equip the library with books, and £17,000 to provide an endowment fund for its maintenance. Mr. J. J. Burnett, of Glasgow, was the architect.

These gifts by no means exhaust the benefactions of Mrs. Elder. She created the Chair of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering in the University of Glasgow; she gave the Queen Margaret College for the benefit of the higher education of women; she gave most valuable assistance in the erection of the present parish church; and she established a training home for



The Elder Library.

nurses on a most beneficial and commonsense basis in the burgh quite recently. Truly, not only Govan but Scotland has benefited by her deeds of kindness.

A few yards westwards from Govan Cross one sees the fruits of the generosity of Lady Pearce in that magnificent pile, the Pearce Institute. The foundation-stone of the building was laid on the 20th September, 1902, by Sir William Pearce, Bart., and in 1904 the women's section was formally opened.

The institute is designed primarily for the use of the working men and women of Govan, and so many and varied are its sections—men's reading-room and club,

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women's reading-room and club, gymnasium, library, retiring rooms, cooking and laundry departments for the teaching of these arts, etc., all on the most sumptuous scale—that the greatest benefits ought to accrue to the people. Its usefulness is doubled by the fact that it is entirely unsectarian, open to all classes and creeds. By next spring—1906—it is probable that the whole institute will be available to the public.

Facing the Pearce Institute is a characteristic statue of Sir William Pearce, erected to his memory by the people of Govan in 1894. With its pedestal the statue rises to the height of twenty-two feet. It came from the studio of one of the foremost of our living sculptors, Onslow Ford, R.A., London. The erection of the institute and statue is viewed with pride by the inhabitants, as commemorating the genius and nobility of character of one who, in his too brief life, did much for the burgh and for them.

Although the remains of Sir William Pearce found a resting-place with his forefathers in the cemetery of Gillingham, there stands to his memory, in the Craigton cemetery, a beautiful work of art. It was erected by his many friends in Govan and Glasgow, whose wish it was that some permanent memorial should be reared in the district with which his greatest achievements were associated. The monument is the work of another gifted London sculptor, Mr. Albert Toft, and is in the Italian renaissance style, the materials used being Creetown granite and Craigleith stone, with figures and panels of bronze.

At the Govan Cross—indeed taken by some people for The Cross—stands a memorial, erected as a local testimonial to the worth and character of a one-time well-known member of the community. This is the Aitken Memorial Fountain. It keeps alive in the public memory John Aitken, M.D., a Govan man, and the first burgh medical officer of health, who died on 11th March, 1880. The memorial was handed over to the local authority for the public behoof on 3rd May, 1884. Dr. Aitken was the first police surgeon for the burgh.

Over the main entrance to the handsome Municipal Buildings are the sculptured heads, in relief, of two of the

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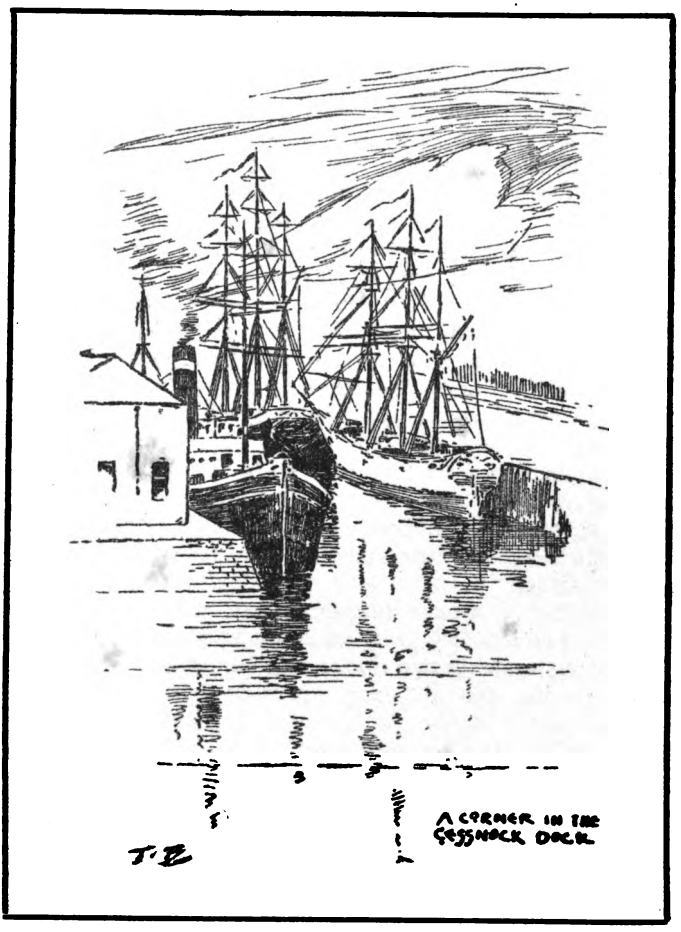

Cessnock Dock.
(The mansion of Cessnock stood where these vessels float.)

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worthiest of the burgh's provosts—ex-Provost James Kirkwood (left) and ex-Provost John Marr (right), while a sculptured medallion over the northern entrance displays the features of Councillor Richard Russell, a worthy member of the civic chamber. These complete the list of Govan's monuments to those of her sons she has delighted to honour.

Within the burgh area lies the Prince's Tidal Dock, constructed on the lands of Cessnock. It was formerly known as the Cessnock Dock,* but was re-named the Prince's Dock by H.R.H. the Duchess of York on 10th September, 1897. It has a water area of 35 acres, including a canting basin of 15½ acres and three inner basins, with a total length of quayage of 3737 yards, or fully two miles. The depth of water ranges from 20 to 28 feet at low water and 31 to 39 feet at high tide. The cost of construction was £1,250,000.

In 1868 Parliamentary sanction was obtained by the Clyde Trustees to construct the first public graving dock in Govan. It was begun in 1869 and opened in 1875. It is 551 feet long and 72 feet wide at entrance, with 22 feet 10 inches of water at high tide. A second dock was opened on 13th October, 1886. It is 575 feet long, 67 feet wide at entrance, and 22 feet 10 inches on sill at high water.

Dock No. 3 was commenced on 12th September, 1890. It is 880 feet long, and can be divided by steel gates, thus making two docks, the inner 420 feet long and the outer 460 feet long. It is 83 feet at entrance, with a water depth of 26 feet 6 inches, and can accommodate the largest vessel afloat. The copestone was laid by H.R.H. the Duke of York on 10th September, 1897, and the dock was officially opened by Lord Provost Richmond, of Glasgow, on 27th April, 1898.

*The first vessel to enter the Cessnock Dock was the Anchor liner "Ethiopia."

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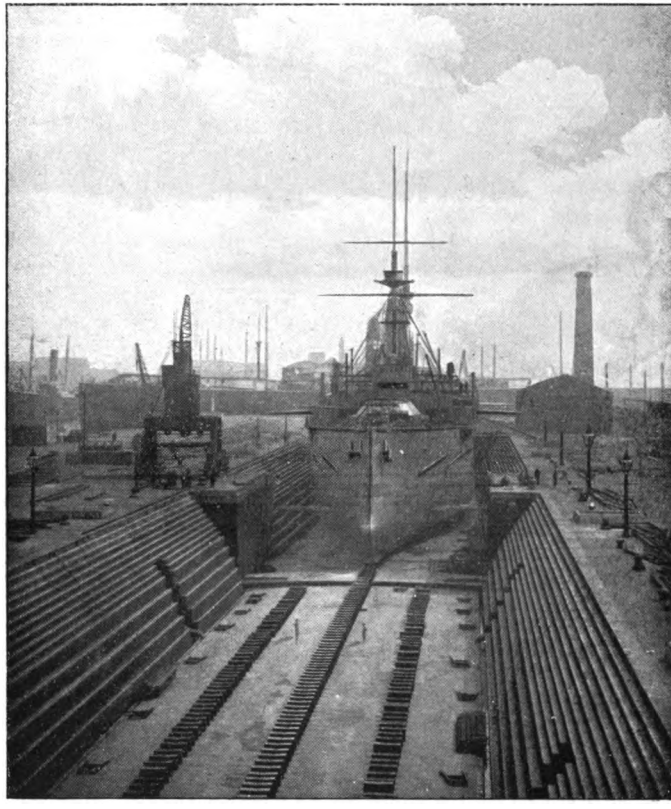

Photo by Alex. Duncan.

No. 3 Dry-Dock, Govan.

(With H.M.S. "Commonwealth," 16,000 tons.)

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CHAPTER XVI.

THE ANNEXATION BATTLES—THE FORERUNNER, 1868—FIRST ANNEXATION BILL, 1870—THE 1884 STRUGGLE—BOUNDARIES COMMISSION, 1888—THE FIGHT OF 1890–1.

On the 9th of March, 1868, Bailie Hinshelwood directed the attention of the commissioners to the "Representation of the People (Scotland) Bill" and its relation to the burgh of Govan. This bill was the forerunner in many respects of the great annexation fights. In clause 9 of that bill it was enacted that "From and after the end of the present Parliament the city of Glasgow shall return three members to serve in Parliament; and the city of Glasgow, until otherwise directed by Parliament, shall comprise the places mentioned in schedule A." This schedule was entitled "Extended Boundaries of the City of Glasgow," and comprised (1) the city of Glasgow included within the existing Parliamentary boundaries; (2) the town or suburb of Partick included within the police limits thereof; (3) *the town or suburb of Govan included within the police limits thereof.* On the face of it, innocent enough, but underlying, there were other than merely political reasons against absorption into Glasgow.

The Lord Provost of that city, at a meeting held a short time previous to the above date, had expressed the opinion that "should it be advisable at a future time to extend the municipality of the city, it was extremely desirable that any Parliamentary boundaries that might be fixed should be done with a view, if possible, of making the *municipal boundaries and the Parliamentary boundaries identical.*"

A newspaper report of the day says that the foregoing observations were received with "applause." However, there were men in Govan astute enough to see that the extension of the Glasgow municipality over Govan and

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Partick simply meant the extension of the basis of city taxation and impost. These burghs, however, were well able to manage their own affairs. At that time the Govanites were assessed in police rates at tenpence halfpenny per pound on rental, and naturally they did not desire to be burdened with the city of Glasgow police rate, statute labour rate, sanitary rate, public parks rate, prisons rate, registration of births rate, houses of refuge rate, and city improvement rate, not to speak of the new court-houses rate, sewage improvement rate, and the whole clamjamphry of rates under which city ratepayers were then groaning.

The commissioners buckled on their armour. They meant to fight. A meeting of the ratepayers of Govan was convened on the 13th of March, 1868. Provost Cruickshank presided, and Commissioner John Laing moved—

"That in the opinion of this meeting the proposal contained in the bill to annex the burghs of Govan and Partick to the city of Glasgow for Parliamentary purposes ought to be strenuously opposed, because (1) the abstraction of these large and populous burghs from the county would deprive the owners and occupiers in them of their legitimate influence over the Parliamentary representation of Lanarkshire; and (2) because the proposed division of the county, under the bill, into two districts, each of which shall return one M.P., renders the retention of Govan and Partick in the county all the more expedient and necessary, inasmuch as they contain a large numerical proportion of the intelligence and wealth of the northern division proposed by the bill."

This was carried unanimously, and Mr. Peter Reid followed with a resolution to the effect "that Govan, Partick, Hillhead, Dowanhill, and Maryhill, in respect of their population, wealth, and intelligence, were entitled to be grouped together and to return one M.P. jointly." This was also carried, and it was agreed to send a petition to the House of Commons embodying these resolutions.

On the 16th of May the commissioners, having prepared a petition which embodied all the foregoing suggestions, requested ex-Provost Pollock, who was in

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London at the time, to present it to the House of Commons through the M.P. for the county of Lanark, Sir Edward Colebrooke. Partick also actively co-operated, and sent a similar petition. In June a joint memorandum for the burghs of Govan and Partick in reference to "clause 9" of the bill was forwarded to the Scotch M.P.'s in the House of Commons. In addition to the arguments against annexation (Parliamentary) detailed above, an interesting description of these districts was included—a description which is worthy of transcribing, as it shows the "values," Parliamentary and otherwise, of Govan and Partick in those days.

Says the memorandum:—"It will be observed from the petitions, though not perhaps generally known, that Govan and Partick are burghs distinct from Glasgow. The first lies upon the south and the second upon the north side of the Clyde, and both are about two miles westward of Glasgow, and *contain a population of 18,000 each.* This joint population of about 36,000 constitute at present an integral part of the county Parliamentary constituency of Lanarkshire. The burgh of Govan, as stated in the petition for it, is believed to contain at present about 436 Parliamentary voters, consisting of 190 tenants and 246 owners of lands and heritages; and the sister burgh of Partick presently contains about 525 county voters, consisting of 188 tenants and 377 owners. The county franchise, as reduced by the new Reform Bill, if applied to these burghs, will increase the county voters within Govan to about 815, or 564 tenants and 251 owners; and in Partick to about 874 voters, consisting of 525 tenants and 349 owners, all qualified under the bill. The burgh franchise, under the new Reform Bill, if applied to Govan and Partick, will produce about 7000 ratepaying occupant voters in a burgh constituency of about 36,000."

The petitioners expressed the desire that the bill might be amended so that Govan and Partick should be grouped with Maryhill, Hillhead, Dowanhill, and Pollokshields into an independent district for Parliamentary representation, or Govan and Partick remain integral parts of Lanarkshire for Parliamentary representation.

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Glasgow was the bogey. The document was signed by about 1000 petitioners. Deputations from Govan and Partick proceeded to London to watch over the interests of the districts, and to oppose, by every means in their power, the fatal "clause 9."

A long, stiff, and stern fight followed and, fortunately for Govan and Partick, ended in a complete defeat for the promoters of the bill. Naturally, Glasgow was aroused at the most unexpected opposition and the overthrow of her scheme. She found *she had caught a tartar in Govan.* This was, however, only a preliminary canter. There was no dubiety about the matter in the next move by the city.

In 1870 she promoted a bill in Parliament for the annexation of the burghs of Govan, Partick, Hillhead, and Maryhill, besides a large landward district. The measure was so sweeping and unreasonable that it was rejected in the House of Commons on the second reading. Two years later Glasgow promoted another bill, restricting her claim this time to Springburn, the Alexandra Park, a portion of the burgh of Partick, the district known as No Man's Land (Govanhill), and Queen's Park. The bill passed so far as the first three districts were concerned, with compensation to Partick for loss of rateable area. In 1875 a third bill was promoted for the inclusion within the city boundaries of Crosshill, Govanhill, Queen's Park, Pollokshields, Mount Florida, and Polmadie, and was rejected by a committee of the House of Commons after a very lengthy and exhaustive inquiry. In 1879 a fourth bill for the annexation of Pollokshields East and the districts of Strathbungo, Queen's Park, etc., was also rejected; and at the time of which we write—1883-4—the Corporation of Glasgow were endeavouring to obtain their ends by circumvention.

In 1883 they had inserted, without avail, a clause in the Burgh Police and Health (Scotland) Act, and thereafter by amendments on the Report of a Boundaries Commission; but all these efforts had proved unsuccessful, Parliament invariably affirming the principle that no community was to be annexed against its consent. The battle raged through the winter months of 1884, and the question, "Is Govan to be one

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of Glasgow's political babies"? was answered very satisfactorily in March of the following year, when the attempt—or, as it was called, the "conjuring trick"—to include the outlying burghs within the municipal area of Glasgow was once more defeated in a committee-room of the House of Commons.

In 1883–4 the burgh passed through a trying period of commercial depression, and various means were taken to alleviate the distress which prevailed. Finally it became a question what action the local authorities should take to reduce the public expenditure. In 1882 there had been incurred an expense of £1900 in opposing the Clyde Navigation Bill for new docks at Cessnock; the Combination Hospital had been erected and opened at a cost of £11,000; and other extraordinary outlays had caused a searching examination of the burgh's finances. It was found that while the police rate stood at 1s. per £ the assets of Govan amounted to £14,534 and the liabilities to £7582, showing a total to the credit side of £6952. It was, however, doubted whether these assets were real or merely nominal, and a great controversy was the result. The arena of public life at the time in the burgh was an unsettled one. There was a call for expert hands and men of brains, and, fortunately, the then Commission Board supplied both.

The burgh was already embarked in many large enterprises, demanding cautious and careful management, and there was a danger of making mistakes on a colossal scale. The Combination Hospital was a new and important charge upon the public administration; the Board were confronted with a strategic movement to the rear in the shape of the purchase by the Clyde Trustees of the estate of Shieldhall for a sum of £90,000; the Elder Park was in process of completion; public subscription lists had been opened for the erection of a grand memorial to John Elder; a fountain had been provided at the Cross to perpetuate the memory of Dr. Aitken; the Vale of Clyde tramways were running to Linthouse; and the penny steamers had begun to land passengers from Glasgow at the Govan wharves. An agitation had also been growing in favour of a public park for the east end of the burgh, and it was felt by

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those who were taking the most active part in the affairs of the rising municipality that there was an urgent need for new municipal buildings. Regarding the park, it was thought by some that the commissioners could utilise for this purpose a sum of £10,000, known as the Burgh Act Fund. Some misconception existed as to whom these funds belonged. As a matter of fact they were the property of the whole burgh, having been derived from the sale of the common land referred to before.

These lands which were disposed of included Clydebrae, on which the new docks were being constructed, which as early as 1856 had been acquired by the natives of Govan, and realised on sale to the Clyde Trustees a sum of £4710; Middleton Commons, which yielded £4771 10s.; and the Harmony Row and Drumoyne Commons, which brought in a sum of £2758 15s., making a total of about £12,240. Expenses, however, had been incurred amounting to £3233, leaving a sum of £9007 as the value of the commons on the date when they were realised. According to the Act, the money was only applicable to the purchase of a public park. The necessity for this was done away with when, in 1885, Mrs. Elder generously presented the burgh with the magnificent Elder Park.

It was then felt that, should Govan be annexed by Glasgow, the whole of the fund would be at once appropriated for the relief of the park rate in the city. Representations were made to Parliament on the subject, and in 1887 an Act to amend the Govan Burgh Act was passed whereby the commissioners were able to use the money for other public purposes than the purchase of a park. The effect was to reduce the park rate from 1½d. to ¾d., and the commissioners found themselves in the position of setting apart the sum of £8000 for the erection of a public hall.

The year 1888 saw another great annexation struggle. In 1887 the Boundaries Commission met in Glasgow, this commission being the outcome of an application to Parliament by the city "to inquire and report, with reference to future legislation, what should be the boundaries for municipal and police purposes of the city of Glasgow." The chairman was the Lord Advocate

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(Sir J. H. A. Macdonald), and the members included the Earl of Elgin, the Hon. T. H. W. Pelham, Sir Charles Tennant, Mr. Crum, and Mr. Badenach Nicolson, secretary. Mr. Comrie Thomson attended on behalf of the burgh of Govan, and the work of the commission began in real earnest on 6th December with the examination of Sir James King, the Lord Provost of Glasgow.

The case for Govan was prepared with the greatest possible care, Provost (then Bailie) Marr, an enthusiastic statistician, devoting his time and his talents to the compilation of figures, which, as the event proved, furnished an argument in favour of the burgh's independence that was quite unanswerable.

Govan, however, was severely handicapped by the opposition of the Fourth Ward, Plantation, and to meet the evidence for this ward being included in the boundaries of the city of Glasgow, the burgh sent ex-Provost Campbell, Provost Ferguson, James Orr, Robert Niven, William Dennison, Archibald Allan (burgh surveyor), Captain Hamilton (superintendent of police), Richard Barnwell (managing director of Fairfield), ex-Provost Thomson, George W. Clark, Commissioner Carmichael, George Mackay (sanitary inspector), Dr. James Barras (medical officer), John Stirling (fire-master), James C. Bowes (burgh auditor), and Bailie John Marr.

The most lengthy evidence was that submitted by Mr. Bowes and Bailie Marr, and both witnesses were cross-examined at great length by Mr. Graham Murray, counsel for Glasgow. Bailie Marr's contention was that if the ratepayers of Govan with rents above £10 were taxed at the Glasgow rate, sufficient money would be raised to relieve altogether the ratepayers with rents under £10, and, in addition, to pay their water rates, and leave a few hundred pounds to the good. He also showed that from the date when Glasgow first sought to annex Govan (1870), if they had succeeded, and the city rates had been applied, the Glasgow authorities would have taken £100,000 more out of the pockets of the Govan ratepayers than the local authority had done during that time.

The commission closed its sittings on 25th January,

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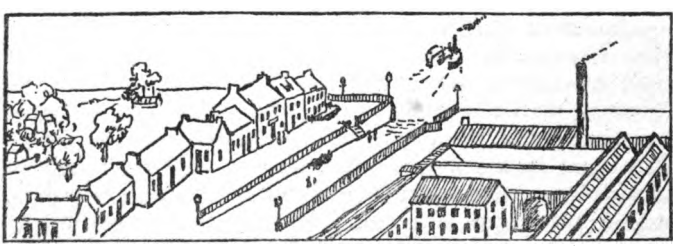
1888, and in May the report was issued, conceding generally the demands of Glasgow. A strenuous effort was made to get the Government to introduce a bill in order to give effect to the findings of the commission, but after a time it was abandoned, the Corporation of Glasgow resolving to promote a bill in the following year.

This bill was eventually introduced, and the greatest of all the annexation fights took place in 1890–1. It ended, however, in a most signal triumph for Govan, and since then the burgh has been allowed to progress unhampered by the grabbing policy of her big neighbour. There are not awanting signs these past few months that the subject of annexation is again to be mooted by the city. If that be so, there will be found a stronger and more united Govan than ever before. Keen though the former fights were, Glasgow will find that her opponent is prepared for a keener and more prolonged struggle than any of the former battles. Financially, Govan is to-day thoroughly sound. She can afford a fight. Can the same remark be applied to the city?



[*From a print in possession of Wm. Barr, Esq.*

Bird's-eye view of Water Row, 1870.

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CHAPTER XVII.

THE PARISH—AREA AND TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES—PARTICK BUN AND YILL HOUSE—THE DISJUNCTION OF GORBALS FROM GOVAN—A CURIOUS DECREET—LITTLE GOVAN AND POLMADIE—ANCIENT SHELTERAGES FOR PILGRIMS—THE POOR OF 1790—POPULATION STATISTICS.

The parish of Govan, with the exception of Barony parish in Glasgow, is the most important and populous parish in Scotland. This honoured position is due to the great—we might say epoch-making—changes that have, within little more than half a century, taken place in its industries. Prior to 1840 there were, on an average, 4320 acres under crops of various kinds, and, in addition, there were many gardens and orchards (our burgh, then a picturesque village, was noted for its orchards), the produce of which went to Glasgow for sale. Now the agricultural area is very materially diminished, and is becoming less from year to year, while the area occupied by buildings of various kinds has rapidly and largely increased.

Of the 4320 acres mentioned, one-fifth, or 864 acres, consisted of potatoes and turnips, one-fifth consisted of wheat, one-fifth of oats, one-fifth of hay, and one-fifth of pasture. Generally speaking, the soil was excellent, and yielded luxuriant crops. Turnips, an exotic from Flanders, were cultivated for the first time about the year 1756. In no part of the country was the produce of potatoes greater than in the parish of Govan, and we have no doubt the oats and wheat were also of an excellent description. Of the total valuation—close upon £2,000,000—of the parish, the portion set down as arising now from agricultural land is only about one-hundredth part, while the remaining $\frac{99}{100}$ arise from the built area, and this is gradually being materially

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increased. The built area includes, on the north side of the Clyde, the burgh of Partick, the Glasgow districts of Hillhead, Dowanhill, and Kelvinside, as well as Whiteinch; and on the south side of the river the burgh of Govan andthe districts of Plantation, Kinning Park, and Ibrox, and the Glasgow districts of Hutchesontown, Gorbals, Laurieston, Tradeston, Crosshill, Govanhill, East and West Pollokshields, Strathbungo, and Dumbreck.

The surface of the lands of the parish is irregular. Along the Clyde it is low and flat, varying in height from 19 to 24 feet (Govan burgh) above sea-level, but from this it rises to the north and south, reaching in the former direction a height of 214 feet near the county boundary, and in the latter of 165 feet at Ibroxhill, 170 at Haggbowse, and 137 at Titwood. We have already alluded to the appearance of the district in late prehistoric times, but in this connection it may be here noticed that in the parish there are beds of finely-laminated clay and sand. These are at different places and at considerable height above the sea. In beds of clay at Balshagray and Gartnavel, about 90 feet above sea-level, the late Mr. Smith of Jordanhill found marine shells, of which 10 per cent. were of types now living in colder seas—proof of the vast inland sea (see first chapter) which once covered the Clyde valley. Whiteinch was, as its name implies, formerly an island, as was also part of the lands of Meadowside, and islands they remained until late in the historic period. The reproduction of Blaeu's map shows these islands (see page 21), and also that the parish was intersected by a small stream which entered the Clyde opposite Stobcross—probably intended for the Kinning House Burn. The land at Whiteinch was, until near the middle of the nineteenth century, very low, but about 1840 the Clyde Trustees got permission to deposit dredged material on it, and in this way the level over a space of 69 acres was raised from 10 to 15 feet.

The river Clyde divides the parish into two unequal parts, the larger extending along the south side a length of 6½ miles, and a breadth at its widest part near the centre of 1⅝ miles; the smaller on the north bank of the Clyde—all west of the Kelvin, except a

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small patch just at the mouth—and measuring in its greatest length (along the Great Western Road west of Kelvin Bridge) 2¼ miles, and in its greatest breadth (from Whiteinch on the south-west to the point on the north where the county of Dumbarton reaches the Kelvin) 2⅛ miles.

A century ago the parish was almost entirely agricultural, and its population—4389—reposed in all the quietude and somnolency of purely primitive life. The now large and populous south side of Glasgow was then an insignificant country village, with no industry greater than a distillery for the brewing of ale, a bottle work, or a few hand-loom factories. The houses were thatched with straw, and most of them had small gardens attached, where the cottagers raised their own potatoes and cabbages. Many of the inhabitants kept their own cows and pigs, and they earned their scanty livings either in tilling the soil or in tailoring, shoemaking, coopering, and weaving. There was a thriving village then situated at a distance to the south of the Clyde, known as Little Govan, consisting—like its larger namesake of Meikle Govan—mainly of weavers' cottages. Through the enterprise of two families of the names of Rae and Dixon, it became the centre of a large coal and iron district, which gave a great impetus to the growth and prosperity of the parish, and even contributed largely to the importance of the city of Glasgow.

Dixon's ironworks, or, as they are more familiarly termed, "Dixon's Blazes," were at the time of their erection situated far out in the open country. Close to the Clyde where Carlton Place now stands there was an extensive ropework, while opposite the present Gorbals church there was a shallow ford where horses were led to water, and where also carts and carriages crossed the river when the Glasgow Bridge became too frail, or was too crowded to accommodate the influx of traffic from the country on the market days. Afterwards the Lauries of Laurieston and other leading gentlemen erected a few commodious country houses by the river side. A fine avenue of trees was formed, and these mansions were guarded against the public by a gateway near the Broomielaw Bridge. In these

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times the male villagers of Little Govan and Gorbals took their turn nightly in acting as voluntary police and guardians of the peace. Their funds were raised by a tax called "reek-money," and by another small tax upon malt.

The village of Partick was then nearly an afternoon's journey from Glasgow, through fields of waving corn and blooming orchards. Every Saturday a club of jovial city merchants, bankers, and college professors made a pilgrimage to Partick on foot to enjoy, in the Bunhouse Tavern, called "the bun and yill house," a dinner of ducks and green peas, which the honest landlady reared and fattened for the members' special entertainment. This merry party of congenial souls was known as the Partick Duck Club, from the associations above mentioned. Convener M'Tyre was the leading light. William Reid, the well-known bibliophile, was the club poet, and some of his effusions are particularly amusing. He hit off the worthy convener, who was a carnivorous gourmand, very aptly in the following couplet:—

> "The ducks at Partick quake wi' fear,
> Crying, 'Lord preserve us! there's M'Tear.'"

Govan is no longer an agricultural parish, its farms are neither numerous nor large, and every year its production of wheat, corn, and potatoes is being lessened, and the arable area circumscribed. In those days—1800—the total rental of the parish would not exceed £30,000. By 1836 it had increased to not much more than £100,000. In the year 1876 it had reached the enormous amount of £1,024,824, of which only £10,000, or little more than a hundredth part, was in agricultural land. The rental to-day gives us the magnificent figures of £2,200,965, or more than double the valuation of thirty years ago, indicating, surely, an unparalleled example of commercial progress, enterprise, and prosperity.

The district on the south side of Glasgow consisting of Gorbals, Tradeston, and Hutchesontown has become one of the most densely-populated areas in the country. Partick is practically now a continuation of the city. This great and wonderful change in the outward

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The Old Sheep Head Inn.

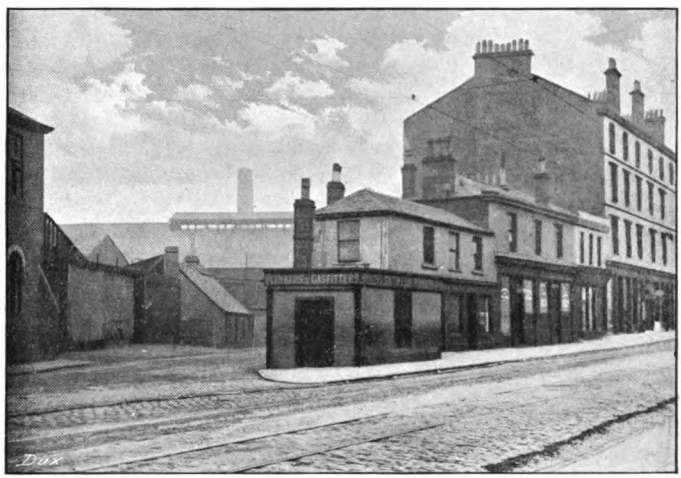

Photo by Alex. Duncan.

The Gushet, 1905.

(Showing junction of old Main Street and Govan Road.)

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appearance of the parish of Govan has taken place within the last quarter of a century, or a little more. What, may be asked, has been the cause of this unprecedented growth? It cannot be ignored that we are indebted for not a little of this prosperity and increase to the proximity of the parish to the city, but we must not overlook the fact of the marvellous energy and enterprise which has marked the progress of the wealthiest portion of our large parish, viz., the burgh of Govan.

As originally defined, the parish comprised the whole of the south side of the river Clyde (besides, of course, a considerable portion of the north side) from Rutherglen on the east to Renfrew on the west. It was situated chiefly in the Lower Ward of the county of Lanark, but a considerable portion was within the East or Upper Ward of the county of Renfrew, viz., the lands of Haggs, Titwood, Shields, and parts of Crosshill and Polmadie. The parish of Gorbals was also within the parish of Govan down to the year 1771, when the Lords Commissioners of Teinds disjoined the village of Gorbals, with the churchyard belonging to it, from the parish of Govan, and formed it into a separate parish. Gorbals parish is very small, having an area of only 28·489 acres, but it is very densely populated. This separation of Govan and Gorbals forms a most interesting chapter of the parish history, and is exhaustively referred to further on.

The parish is six miles long, extending from Jenny's Burn, Polmadie, on the east to the burgh of Renfrew on the west; and at its broadest part three miles wide, extending from Haggs Castle on the south to the vicinity of Dawsholm Gasworks on the north. It is bounded by Renfrew on the west; New Kilpatrick, Barony, and Glasgow on the north; Barony, Gorbals, and Rutherglen on the east; and by Cathcart, Eastwood, and the Abbey parish of Paisley on the south. The total area, excluding Gorbals, is about ten miles, or 6940 acres.

Several changes have taken place in the jurisdiction from time to time. On the 15th May, 1873, the Board of Supervision in Edinburgh combined the parish of Gorbals with that of Govan for poor law purposes,

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and this combination still exists. Ecclesiastically, the parish of Gorbals remains a separate parish. Another change in the jurisdiction took place so recently as 1892. In that year Lord Balfour of Burleigh, the Secretary for Scotland, after an inquiry, transferred the parish, in so far as it had been within the jurisdiction of the county of Renfrew, to the county of Lanark, and at the same time he disjoined a small portion, consisting of some two or three acres, situated within the burgh of Renfrew, from Govan to the county of Renfrew, and a small portion in the vicinity of Haggs Castle to the same county. At that time an attempt was made to take from Govan that portion called South Govan, or Linthouse, and add it to Renfrewshire, but, mainly through the opposition of Govan Parish Council, that attempt was defeated, so that, with the slight exceptions referred to, the parish stands to-day as it did long ago.

As we have seen, a portion of the parish is in Renfrewshire—Haggs, Titwood, Shields, and parts of Crosshill and Polmadie—and the greater part in Lanarkshire. It is somewhat unusual for a parish to be situated in two counties, and it is said that these lands mentioned above were disjoined from the sheriffdom of Lanark and annexed to the sheriffdom of Renfrew for the convenience of Sir George Maxwell of Pollok, who died in 1677. On the other hand, it is stated that the original charter granted to Sir John Maxwell of Pollok by the Archbishop of Glasgow, and dated 8th June, 1581, describes the lands in question to be in the barony and regality of Glasgow, in the county of Renfrew. This want of uniformity in specifying the shire is characteristic of the old charters, apart from the ecclesiastical, wherein we always find stricter attention to detail. The origin of the division, therefore, is unfortunately lost in obscurity.

Let us now glance for a few moments at the disjunction of Gorbals from Govan and its erection into a parish. It brings before us not a little of the ancient history of our parish, and the proceedings which led up to the disjointure are well worth recording. The barony of Gorbals, the greater part of which is now included in the city of Glasgow, is situated on the south side of

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the river Clyde. It was acquired from Sir Robert Douglas of Blackereston about 1660 by the magistrates and Council of Glasgow. At the time of this acquisition, and previously, there existed upon the barony a village called the village of Gorbals, or Brigend, being situated at the south end of the Bridge of Glasgow, which, together with the whole barony, was included in the parish of Govan and county of Lanark.

This village of Gorbals was the centre and most important portion of the barony, and was chiefly inhabited by feuars who, by themselves or their predecessors, had obtained feus of portions of the barony and erected houses thereon. From an early period, indeed, so far as appears for upwards of 200 years, and from at least so far back as the year 1667, and down to the passing of the Act in 1846 extending the municipal boundaries of the city of Glasgow, the magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow regularly appointed bailies of the barony of Gorbals, who acted as magistrates, with jurisdiction over the whole barony. These magistrates were styled bailies of the barony of Gorbals, and, in conjunction with certain parties who were regularly and periodically appointed by the feuars of the barony and who were known as the preses and managers of the public funds of the community, they acted as managers of these public funds for behoof of the community of the barony. This community or inhabitants of Gorbals, although there is no charter known to be extant, from time immemorial exercised corporate rights by electing managers, by whom, sometimes alone and sometimes in conjunction with the bailies of the barony, they held property. These managers acted, as we have seen, on behoof of the whole community, and every feuar was entitled to vote in their election.

There were also appointed, from the very earliest times down to 1846, "birleymen," who exercised over the whole barony powers analogous to those of a dean of guild court. In various other respects it would appear that the inhabitants of the barony exercised corporate rights.

Prior to the year 1679 the inhabitants of Gorbals had established a small public fund by the voluntary imposition of a tax, called "reek-money," and another small

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tax upon malt. The revenue thus raised was expended in making common sewers, in making and repairing pump-wells, in cleaning and lighting the streets, and other such useful and necessary purposes. From the funds raised partly in this way and partly by voluntary contributions among the feuars, the inhabitants, about the year 1715, determined, in consequence of the distance at which they were situated from the Kirkyard of Govan, to purchase a piece of ground for a burying-place.

The title of this ground is supposed to be lost, but it is understood that there is in existence a disposition by Robert Calhoun, merchant in Glasgow, to Gabriel M'Krockett, hammerman in Gorbals, dated 28th December, 1734, which narrates a disposition by John Gilmour, portioner of Little Govan—"in favours of the community of Gorbals, and their trustees therein named, of those five roods of land or thereby, as a part of his part of the said lands of Little Govan, *for ane buriall place for the inhabitants of Gorbells*, and which was then enclosed and made ane buriall place, which right and disposition boure date 3rd day of December 1713; and that by the said disposition in favours of the community of Gorbells the said John Gilmour had reserved to himself ane buriall place in the said ground," &c.

The community next obtained a gift of a piece of ground in the village, and built a chapel upon it—this took place in 1727—44 years before the erection of Gorbals into a parish. The disposition and sasine of the ground were conceived "in favors of Ludovick Stewart, writer in Glasgow, present preses of Gorbells; Thomas Gemmill, hammerman in Gorbells; Gabriel M'Crockett, maltman there; and Robert White, maltman there, his assessors, and their successors in office, for the use and behove of the haill other feuars and inhabitants of Gorbels and muir there of." This muir of Gorbals alluded to in the foregoing quoted disposition was a large common, the use of which was enjoyed by the feuars and inhabitants. The common extended to the foot of Langside Hill, about a mile and a half from the Clyde. It is now all built upon and feued out. The granter of the "piece of ground

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to build a chapel on" reserved right to a pew in the said chapel. As was mentioned previously, the public funds then consisted of the produce of the reek-money and malt tax, and also the revenue arising from the burying-ground and contributions by the inhabitants. From these and the seat rents of the chapel they were enabled to maintain a preacher, besides defraying the ordinary public expenses of the community, and from this date—1727—the funds which had previously been exclusively devoted to secular purposes were applied to purposes both secular and ecclesiastical.

Again, in 1748, while yet a part of the parish of Govan, and 23 years before its erection into a separate parish, the village, as a community, acquired the property called "Community Land," the titles of which are conceived in favour of "the preses and assessors of the community of Gorbells, and their successors in office, for behoof of the said community, and the said asignees of the said preses and assessors for behoof foresaid."

In the year 1770, by which period the village and its population had materially increased, a summons of disjunction of the parish of Govan and erection of the parish of Gorbals was raised in the Teind Court. After a variety of procedure, the Court disjoined the village of Gorbals from the parish of Govan and erected it into a new and separate parish. Constituting as it does an epoch in the history of the parish of Govan, the details of the action in the Court are worth giving *in extenso*, so far as they bear directly upon the purposes of this history. The summons of disjunction will be gathered from the following curious and interesting "Excerpt from Copy Decreet of Disjunction and New Erection, the Feuars of Gorbals against the Minister and Heritors of Govan":—

"At Edinburgh, the 20th day of February 1771 years, anent the Summons and Action of Disjunction and New Erection raised and pursued before the Lords of Council and Session, commissioners appointed for plantation of kirks and valuation of teinds, at the Instance of James Simpson and Walter Angus, bailies in the village of Gorbals of Glasgow; and Walter

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Whyte, preses, and William Murdoch, Thomas Cochrane, Andrew Snodgrass, John Robertson, and Malcolm M'Cloid, managers of the said village of Gorbals; and William Bowie, John Snodgrass, and John Currie, three of the feuars of the said village, as a committee named by the general meeting of the feuars of the said village, joined the said bailies, preses, and managers, to follow forth and pursue the action of disjunction and new erection after mentioned, for themselves and their successors in office, and in the name and behalf of the remanent feuars of the said village: Against (the names of the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council of Glasgow; of the Chancellor, Rector, Principal and Professors of the University of Glasgow; of certain heritors and portioners in the parish of Govan; of certain parties the managers of Hill's Mortification (Abraham Hill of Govan's Mortification, dated 12th March, 1757, and fully referred to further on) are then given as defenders; the conclusions of the action are stated, and a procedure set forth, after which the decreet proceeds as follows):—

"Which debate, above written with the lybel, being upon the day and date of these presents heard, read, seen, and considered by the said Lords, and they therewith, and with the haill steps and procedure of this process, being well and ripely advised, they Seperated and Disjoined the Village of Gorbals, which is bounded and described as follows, viz., on the north by the river Clyde, on the east by St. Ninian's Croft to the highway leading to Rutherglen, and from the said highway, on the south-east and south, by Paterloan and Dockanyfold to the highway that leads to the Shaws, and from the said highway on the south and south-west by the Wallcroft that joins the Shiel loan, on the south and west of the garden belonging to the heirs of Andrew Geills, to the highway leading to Paisley; and from the said highway on the west by the Windmiln croft to the river Clyde; and the burying-place of the said village, bounded on the north by the highway leading to Rutherglen from the Gorbals; on the east and south by the lands of Mr. Rae of Little Govan, and on the west by Sandyfold burn, from the present parish of Govan; and Erectid into a new and seperate parish

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and pastoral charge, to be called in time coming *The Parish of Gorbals*, and Ordained the inhabitants of the bounds above mentioned, to repair to the Church already built and erected within the said village, for hearing of the word, receiving of the sacraments, and all other acts of public divine worship; and to subject themselves to the ministers thereof, as their own proper pastors in all times coming:

"And found and declared that a minister be settled for serving the cure at the said kirk already erected within the said village; and that the patronage of the said new erected parish, in all time coming, shall pertain and belong to those having right to the patronage of the Parish of Govan, of which it is a part: but found that (with and under the conditions and provisions after mentioned) the bailies, preses, and managers of the public funds of the said village, for the time, shall have the only right of modelling and disposing of the said Church, and haill seats thereof, and bounds within the same; and of letting and uplifting the rents for the said seats, and of naming and appointing beadles, bellmen, and door keepers of the said Church, and readers, precentors, and clerks for the same, and kirk-session thereof, from time to time, as they shall think fit; with and under this condition and provision always, that the patrons and heritors of the Parish of Govan, and their heirs and successors in their respective properties, nor the teinds of the lands thereof, shall not be subjected or liable to any expense of paying stipend to the minister of the said New Parish, or for building, upholding, or repairing the said kirk, kirkyard dykes, and burying place, or any other edifice built, or necessary to be built, for the accommodation of the minister or schoolmaster of the said New Parish, or any other parochial burdens whatever:

"But declared them free thereof in all time coming. As also decerned and ordained that the bailies of the said village, preses, and managers of the public funds thereof for the time, shall be bound and obliged, on the proper charges and expenses of the said village, not only to defray the said expense, but also to provide the minister, who shall serve the cure at the said Kirk, with a competent and legal stipend, not under the sum of

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£67 sterling, *with £23 money foresaid yearly for manse and glebe*, ay and until the same is provided both out of the public funds of the said village, payable at two terms in the year, Whitsunday and Martinmas yearly by equal portions; and also to furnish communion elements as oft as the sacrament shall be administrate within the said parish. And so the Lords gave their decreet in the said matter in manner at length above mentioned.

"Extracted from the records of the Commissioners plantation of kirks and valuation of teinds, upon this for and the twenty-two preceding pages, by me, (signed) Thomas Alves, Cl. Com. Dep."

Thus did the Lords Commissioners of Teinds disjoin the village of Gorbals, with the kirkyard belonging to it, from the parish of Govan, and form it into a separate parish. For poor law purposes Govan and Gorbals parishes are to-day combined, but, ecclesiastically, they remain as the old decree of 1771 ordered—separate parishes.

In a previous chapter we mentioned that "Govan Ward" was divided south of the Clyde in five main portions. These consisted of Meikle Govan, embracing the ancient village and a large tract of land towards the west boundary; West Shiells east of Meikle Govan; Titwood and Shiells on the west side of Kinninghouse Burn; Gorbals on the east side of that burn; and Little Govan, embracing the remaining lands to the eastern boundary. About the year 1320, John, Bishop of Glasgow, endowed Polmadie Hospital with the easter half of the lands of Little Govan described in the charter as lying between the hospital and the remaining lands of Little Govan on the west. In consequence of its transfer to the hospital, the easter half of Little Govan eventually lost its original name, which was merged in that of Polmadie.

The adjoining lands of Crosshill, forming, it is believed, a part of Cathcart, were likewise in the same year acquired by the hospital. In or previous to 1453 the whole of the hospital's lands were transferred to the Collegiate Church of Dumbarton, with which church they remained till the Reformation. Shortly after the Reformation the lands passed to other proprietors, and

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the deeds of transfer are curious, inasmuch as they indicate the views then held as to the parochial and county connections of these lands. On the 4th November, 1564, the provost of the Collegiate Church feued to Sir John Stewart of Minto, knight, "the five mark land of Polmadie and Corshill with the pertinents lying within the *Sheriffdom of Renfrew.*" In the instrument by the town clerk of Glasgow narrating the ceremony of giving possession, the lands are described as lying within the "*Shire of Lanark.*"

Titwood and Shiells, one of the Govan divisions above referred to, had been long possessed by successive lairds of Pollok in conjunction with adjoining lands in Renfrewshire, and in course of time the combined properties came to be regarded as lying in Renfrewshire. Similarly, Crosshill and Polmadie, although described in early titles sometimes as in the one shire and sometimes in the other, were eventually assigned to Renfrew. Though there was this want of uniformity in specifying the shire, continuous parochial supervision in spiritual concerns, and the regular exaction of parsonage and vicarage teinds, effectually prevented any misconception arising with regard to the parish. Crosshill seems latterly to have reverted to its original parish of Cathcart, but during the time it was conjoined with the more extensive lands of Polmadie the whole were usually described as lying in the parish of Govan. On the 27th April, 1567, the Sir John Stewart referred to before feued to John Burne "the mark land of Corshill," described as "lying in the parish of Govan and shire of Renfrew." On 5th February, 1592, John Burne resigned the same property in favour of William Mure, and in the Instrument of Resignation it is described as "lying in the parish of Govan and shire of Lanark."

Again, in the feu charters relating to a two mark land of Polmadie feued to Mathew Mure and spouse, and to a two mark land also of Polmadie feued to John Cumyng and spouse by Sir John Stewart, the lands are described as lying in the "parish of Govan, barony of Renfrew, and shire thereof." The charters were confirmed by the provost of the Collegiate Church on 22nd August, 1569, and the lands are again

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described as lying "in the parish of Govan and barony of Renfrew." The titles subsequent to 1569 invariably describe the lands of Polmadie as lying in the parish of Govan, and the evidence of Presbytery and Kirk Session records all lead to the same conclusion that the lands of Polmadie belong to the parish of Govan.

We thus gather from the foregoing curious extracts the fact that, so far as the parish was concerned, there was, owing to the rigorous ecclesiastical jurisdiction, no dubiety of specification of the lands, and, as we have seen, the parish of Gorbals was also within the parish of Govan down to the year 1771, when the village of Gorbals was disjoined and formed into a separate parish.

As has been mentioned in the earlier portion of this history, the church of Govan, with a jurisdiction over Govan and Partick, was erected into a prebend in Glasgow Cathedral about 1153, hence the explanation of the parish of Govan being found on both sides of the Clyde (see Chapter II.). In days long gone by the parish boasted of no less than two (the late Mr. A. M. Scott contended for three) hospitals or shelterages for the poor and for pilgrims, and also for the sick. In early times hospitals for the reception of the poor and the sick, as well as for the entertainment of pilgrims and travellers, were numerous. Near the entrance to towns hospitals for the sick were usually placed, while by the side of highways, at the approaches to ferries, and on mountain passes accommodation for those requiring shelter was usually provided.

The Govan hospitals were—St. Ninian's, in the Gorbals, for lepers, and the poorhouse or hospital of Polmadie; while, according to the archæologist named above, there may have been another poorhouse at Strathbungo. All traces of these have long vanished, indeed the very site of Polmadie can only be guessed. We have something definite to go upon regarding the leper hospital, however. Leprosy, in early ages, appears to have been a common disease in Scotland, and an old burgh law, which may have been in force in Joceline's time, directed that those afflicted with leprosy who had sufficient means should resort to hospital, while for those in poverty the burgesses were to gather money for their sustenance and clothing. Another law

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provided for the collection of alms "for the sustenance of lepers in a proper place outwith the burgh."

There seems little doubt that, in compliance with these statutory enactments, the bishops of Glasgow provided accommodation for the lepers of the burgh (of Glasgow). Gorbals, on the south side of the river Clyde, formed part of Govan lands bestowed on the see by David I., and its position outside the town's gates complied with the necessary requirements for a site. A bridge over the Clyde existed before the end of the thirteenth century, and it is possible that the hospital, placed as it was only a few yards beyond the south end of the structure, would then be in use. Hospital and grounds were thus close by, and on the east side of the thoroughfare, which then led southwards in the line of the modern main street. A chapel in connection with the hospital, but situated about 100 yards farther south, where the thoroughfare just mentioned joined Rutherglen Loan, was founded about 1494 by William Steward, a canon of the Cathedral. Both hospital and chapel were dedicated to St. Ninian, the favourite saint of such institutions.

Endowments of the hospital were of frequent occurrence. On 30th June, 1485, Thomas Hutchinson, burgess and citizen, with consent of George Hutchinson, his father, gifted an annualrent to the poor and leprous persons, male as well as female, of St. Ninian's; they being enjoined to make earnest supplications in their daily prayers for the souls of George Hutchinson, his wife, and their children, and for the souls of their parents and all the faithful dead.

The leper hospital is mentioned on several occasions in the Glasgow Council records. Thus, in 1573, four lepers were "secludit of the toun to the hospital," and in the following year other four persons were "fund leper and decernit to be banist or ellis to pas to the hospital."

A minute of October, 1610, ordains "that the lipper of the hospital sall gang onlie upon the calsie syde near the gutter and sall haif clapperis and ane claith upon their mouth and face, and sall stand afar off, quhill they resaif almous or answer, under the payne of banischeing thame the toun and hospital." The hospital was

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erected on a croft, called St. Ninian's Croft, in the main street of the Gorbals, and is said to have been founded in 1350 by a lady of the family of Lochow, although there seems a doubt regarding this.

On the southern boundary of the parish is stated to have stood the Strathbungo Hospital. The titles of the place reveal the fact that the land on the east side of the village of Strathbungo, between Allison Street and the Crosshill Burn, was of old named the Spittal Croft. The word "spittal" is a contraction of hospital. It is found in various parts of Scotland, and it is assumed that at or near the land so named there may have existed in pre-Reformation times an hospital.

The Polmadie Hospital is the most ancient of the three, and is the earliest parish ancestor of Merryflats. It was dedicated to St. John, and there is evidence of its existence about 1249. Robert the Bruce confirmed to the master, brethren, and sisters of the hospital "juxta Ruglen" all the privileges which they were wont to have in the time of Alexander, his predecessor. During the lifetime of the hero of Bannockburn the hospital received many kindnesses at his hands, and pleasing indeed it is to think of the stern patriot and warrior indulging in such acts. John, Bishop of Glasgow, in 1320, gave to the hospital that half of Little Govan lying between the hospital and the western half of the same land; the church and church lands of Strathblane were, before 1316, granted to the hospital; and Adam, son of Alan, burgess of Dumbarton, in 1334, lent the hospital a sum of money in its necessity. About 1427 it was erected into a prebend, of which the bishops of Glasgow retained the patronage. In or about 1450 the church of Strathblane was dissevered from Polmadie, and it and the hospital lands were then annexed to the Collegiate Church of Dumbarton. Thus having lost its endowments about this period, it appears to have ceased to be used as an hospital, or, as it is named in a citation of 1403, the "Poor's House of Polmadie."

Where did the very ancient hospital of Polmadie stand? According to reliable etymologists, the name Polmadie, signifying wolf's pool, was originally applied to the stream which forms the eastern boundary of the

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lands. Later names are Mallsmyre Burn, so called from the Mall or Marsh, where it rises, and Jenny's Burn, for some reason not yet expounded. Since the acquisition of Richmond Park, which it intersects, the burn is more conspicuous and is likely to become better known. It is believed that the hospital occupied a site opposite to what is now Richmond Park, on the south side of the Rutherglen Road, and west side of the burn, ground now built upon. The existing road is in the line of an ancient thoroughfare leading between King David's burgh of Rutherglen and the ancient monastery and town of Govan.

A Roman highway is said to have passed through Mallsmyre in the direction of Paisley, and it is supposed that one branch from that highway led southward, while another branch road passed northward across the river Clyde and through Glasgow. The hospital may thus have been situated at the intersection of several ancient thoroughfares, attracting wayfarers from all parts. There is no clue to the date of foundation and no definite information regarding the founder.

When the Polmadie martyrs were shot in 1685 there was a village or hamlet situated on the east boundary of the lands, less than 300 yards from the highway, and it is supposed also that this village had its origin in the disused buildings of the hospital, fully two centuries previously. It may therefore be said that the situation of the hospital was the site of the subsequent village, but the foregoing are points which even the most diligent research of many distinguished antiquarians has been unable to settle satisfactorily. So be it the task of some future enthusiast to elucidate the mystery.

The relief of the poor in these times, and indeed up till the establishment of the parochial boards, was doubtless of the most primitive and haphazard character. We catch a passing glimpse of the methods employed in Govan parish from old Dr. Pollock's contribution to the Statistical Account of 1790. In that year there were on the parish roll 21 poor people. These were supported by the voluntary collections at the church doors, and the interest of £420 sterling, which, says the doctor, "has

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hitherto been paid very punctually." He does not, however, mention where the capital was derived from. This fund, with fines for irregular marriages, and the "usual deductions" from the session clerk's fees, admitted of the distribution of £4 or £5 sterling at the end of every half-year to poor householders. The whole sum distributed annually amounted to about £60 sterling! Comparison with the thousands of pounds spent annually in these times affords some idea of the mighty changes wrought by time in parochial as well as in more imperial matters.

It is interesting as showing the increase of population to add that in 1755, when the village of Gorbals was included in the parish of Govan, the population of the whole parish amounted to 4389! In 1793 it had increased to 8318. By 1836 the figures leaped to 46,475. This was a large increase in a short space of 43 years, being five and a half times greater than in 1793 and eleven times greater than in 1775. Sixty-five years later, when the census was taken in 1901, the population had increased to 340,088, or nearly eight times greater than in 1836, and the increase is still going on.

But the greater part of the increase between 1793 and 1836 took place in the districts of Gorbals, Tradeston, and Hutchesontown, on the south side of Glasgow. Even in 1836 the town of Govan was but a small country village, containing a population of 2122; now the burgh of Govan boasts a population of over 91,000, being an increase of forty-fold during the last sixty-six years, a rate that is unequalled in Scotland, if not in the Empire. The following highly interesting table is culled from the census of 1841 :—

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POPULATION OF THE PARISH BEYOND GLASGOW PARLIAMENTARY LIMITS.

(From the Government Census of 1841.)

PRINCIPAL SECTIONS.		NUMBER OF				BORN IN				
		Families.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	In the County.	Other Scottish Counties.	England.	Ireland.	Foreign.
South of Clyde and North of Paisley Canal	Govan Village, -	483	2556	1237	1319	1787	630	29	100	1
	Landward Parts, -	140	824	385	439	415	340	18	51	...
	Together, - - -	623	3380	1622	1758	2202	970	47	160	1
North of Clyde	Partick Village,* -	533	2623	1256	1367	1413	747	34	410	2
	Landward Parts, -	185	1005	447	558	515	449	11	47	...
	Together, - - -	718	3628	1703	1925	1928	1196	45	457	2
South of Paisley Canal	Lanark County, -	162	943	497	446	558	265	7	113	...
	Renfrew County, -	153	764	380	384	397	329	3	35	...
	†Together, - - -	315	1707	877	830	935	594	10	148	...
Total according to Census of	1841, - - -	1656	8715	4202	4513	5085	2760	102	765	3
	1831, - - -	1071	5677							
	Increase, - - -	585	3038	(Other particulars wanting in Census of 1831.)						

* Exclusive of Kelvin-Haugh Section, it being in Barony Parish.
† Embracing Strathbungo, Copelaw-hill, Muirhouses, Fireworks, and Polmadie.
The Renfrewshire portion of Govan Parish is less extensive than it was at the Census of 1831, certain parts of it being now included within the Parliamentary limits of the City of Glasgow.

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CHAPTER XVIII.

THE PARISH COUNCIL—ASSESSMENTS FIRST IMPOSED —FIRST PAROCHIAL BOARD—OFFICE-BEARERS —EARLY DAYS—LANDS OF MERRYFLATS ACQUIRED—RATES, EXPENDITURE, ETC., IN 1871-1901—GOVAN DISTRICT LUNACY BOARD —HAWKHEAD—THE GOVAN COMBINATION HOSPITAL.

Closely connected with the life of the burgh is the Board of Management for the Relief of the Poor. The records relating to Govan Parish Council carry us back thirty-eight years previous to the formation of the burgh—the Board being, of course, for the parish, and not confined to the burgh. On October 26, 1826, a meeting of heritors was convened in the Parish Church for the purpose of imposing, for the first time, an assessment upon the ratepayers. It is of interest to give the names of those gentlemen who attended. These were :—The Hon. the Lord Provost of Glasgow (William Hamilton); William Rodger, convener of the Trades House, Glasgow; James Smith of Jordanhill; George Rowan of Holmfauldhead; John M'Call of Ibrox; Charles Foster of Drumoine; Robert Robertson of Whitefield; David Crawford of Greenhaugh; William Robertson of Haughhead; John Lochhead of Rowebank; Allan Fullarton; Mr. Cumming of Fairfield; John Pearson; Miss Oswald of Scotstoun; John Hair of West Shields; John King of Shieldmuir; Morris Pollok; Benjamin Gow of Melvillepark; John Belch; Benjamin Mathie; Robert Thompson, with John Pollock and George Young Strang from Laurieston; and from the Kirk Session, the Rev. Mr. Leishman, William Gibson, and Allan Dreghorn.

The Lord Provost was called to the chair. After a good deal of discussion it was unanimously agreed to impose an assessment of £800 for the ensuing year, to be laid on in the mode practised by the Barony parish of Glasgow. A number of assessors were appointed,

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and Mr. William Robertson was appointed convener, secretary, and treasurer.

Hitherto the relief of the poor had been administered solely by the Govan Kirk Session, with the assistance of Dr. M'Lean, and the Kirk Session of Gorbals, who had taken charge of the annexation or city portion of the parish. At this meeting, however, a committee, consisting of Mr. Rowan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Gow, and, from the north side of the river, Mr. Dick and Mr. James Craig, was appointed to act in concert with the Kirk Session. This we may hold to be the first Parochial Board for the parish of Govan. An idea of its immense growth will be derived from the fact that the population of the parish was then (1826) only 30,000—at the last census the figures were 341,450. Mr. William Gibson was clerk to the session, and filled the office now held by the Inspector of Poor. For the long period of eighteen years after this the Rev. Dr. Leishman was chairman of the Board. The late Colonel David Dreghorn was appointed collector of poor rates, on the 4th August, 1835, and held the office continuously till his death in 1875, a period of forty years. He was succeeded in the collectorship by Mr. William M'Culloch.

After the passing of a Poor Law Act, the first meeting of the Parochial Board of Govan parish was held in the Parish Church, on 4th August, 1846, when Dr. Leishman was unanimously appointed chairman. At the previous census (1841) the population of the parish was 45,885. From the passing of the Poor Law Act till March, 1850, the parish had been divided into two districts, viz., the landward and annexation districts; and there were two Inspectors of Poor, Mr. William Gibson, for the landward portion, and Dr. M'Tear, for the annexation or city portion, but at the above date Mr. James D. Kirkwood was appointed inspector. He held that office till December, 1871.

In the year ending May, 1850, there were chargeable to the parish 996 registered poor, of whom 32 were insane, and 74 were orphan or deserted children. The following is an abstract of the receipts and expenditure for that year, and, to the curious in those matters, it will afford a contrast with the expenditure of these days :—

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Receipts from assessments, £7851 17s.; other sources, £313 17s. 6d.; total, £8166 14s. 6d. Expenditure—on registered and casual poor, £5947 18s. 11d.; medical relief, £277 7s. 6d.; management, £1311 12s. 10d.; law expenses, £82 15s.; total, £7619 14s. 1d.

The late John Mitchell, of Moore Park, succeeded Dr. Leishman as chairman of the Board in June, 1852, and occupied that position for two years, when he was succeeded, in June, 1854, by the late John Wilkie, writer, Glasgow, who continued to fill the office till August, 1867. About this period the Govan Parochial Board, finding their poorhouse accommodation at the old Cavalry Barracks too limited for the increasing number of their ordinary and lunatic poor, purchased the lands of Merryflats, and entered into contracts for the erection of a large poorhouse, hospital, and asylum on said lands. This action, on their part, created a great deal of dissatisfaction in the minds of a large section of the ratepayers, and this feeling resulted in a complete change in the Board of Management. The chairman, and nearly the whole of the managing committee were thrown out, and a new committee, with the late Bailie William Wilson as their chairman. came into office in the month of August, 1867. Bailie Wilson remained chairman of the Board till April, 1874, and during his reign the extensive Parochial Buildings at Merryflats were carried on and completed.

It was found that, in spite of the outcry of the ratepayers against the scheme, the erection of a new poorhouse, hospital, and asylum, in view of the rapid increase of the population, was an absolute necessity, and it was found that the estimates of the previous Board were under rather than over estimated. The original estimates amounted to between £50,000 and £60,000, but before the buildings were completed and furnished the cost had reached the large sum of £100,000.

Mr. James D. Kirkwood ceased to be inspector of the parish in December, 1871, having occupied that office for twenty-one years and nine months, and after a few months' interregnum he was succeeded, in July, 1872, by Mr. Andrew Wallace, who died in 1902. The present inspector is Mr. John Mitchell.

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Mr. John M'Culloch was appointed governor of the poorhouse in June, 1858, but retired from active duty in 1890, and was succeeded by Mr. William Baillie as deputy-governor. On the death of Mr. M'Culloch in 1892 the latter was appointed governor, but he only held the office for a few months, when he died. Mr. Baillie was succeeded by Mr. John Thomson, the present governor.

In 1871 the population of the parish had increased to 151,401, with a gross rental of £675,392, and the number of persons, including dependants, chargeable to the parish on the 14th May of that year was 2443, of whom 122 were lunatics, and about 200 orphan, deserted, or separated children. The inmates of the poorhouse numbered 433. The receipts from assessments were £20,588 (rate 11½d. per £); from other sources, £2411; total receipts, £23,000. Expenditure —on registered and casual poor, £17,311; medical relief, £766; management, £3098; law expenses, £454; total, £21,631.

On 15th May, 1873, the Govan and Gorbals parishes were combined for poor law purposes, thus forming the Parish of Govan Combination as it now exists.

At the census of 1871 the population of Gorbals amounted to 10,494, and the poor rate at the date of amalgamation was 2s. 9¾d. per £. Mr. W. G. Downie, inspector of Gorbals, was transferred to the office of the Combination Board, and held the office of cashier and bookkeeper from 1873 till his retiral in 1898.

At the census taken in April, 1891, the population of Govan Combination had increased to 284,982, and the gross rental to £1,358,733. The poor rate for that year was 8½d. per £, and the receipts as follows:— From assessments, £36,910; from Government grants, £4787; from other sources, £2882; total, £44,579. Expenditure—on registered and casual poor, £30,966; medical relief, £1405; management, £6409; law expenses, £125; miscellaneous £445; total ordinary expenditure, £39,350. The number of poor, including dependants, chargeable at 14th May, 1891, was 5547, of whom there were 514 lunatics, and 375 orphan, deserted, or separated children. The inmates of the poorhouse numbered 522.

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It only remains to be stated that Bailie Wilson was succeeded in the chairmanship of the Board in April, 1874, by ex-Provost James Wilson, Govan, who occupied the chair till April, 1881, followed by Mr. Charles E. Irwin till April, 1882; by Mr. David Bowman till April, 1885; by Mr. James M'Clelland till April, 1888; by ex-Provost Dick till April, 1891; by Mr. John Templeton till 1892.

In 1895 the Local Government Act of 1894 came into force, and the Parish Council took the place of the old Parochial Board. The present chairman is Mr. James Wiseman.

The offices of the Council are at 7 Carlton Place, Glasgow, where the Council meets on the last Thursday in each month for the transaction of business.

It is interesting to recall that the first poorhouses occupied by the Govan Board were small premises situated in Coburg Lane and Dale Street, from whence they removed about 1850 to the old Horse Barracks in Eglinton Street. From the latter place they were compelled to quit to make way for the Caledonian Railway Company. The lands of Merryflats were then acquired, and the handsome poorhouse and asylum erected thereon. These were opened in 1872.

In May, 1901, the gross rental amounted to £1,863,690, and the number of persons, including dependants, chargeable to the parish was 6,903 of whom there were 879 lunatics, and 594 orphan, deserted, and separated children. The inmates of the poorhouse numbered 897.

The receipts from assessment were £57,937 (rate, 11d. per £); from other sources, £14,328; total receipts, £72,266. Expenditure—on registered and casual poor, £68,527; medical relief, £2423; management, £7098; law expenses, £357; total expenditure, £78,406.

In May, 1905, the gross rental amounted to £2,200,965 9s. 6d., and the number of persons, including dependants, chargeable to the parish was 9200, of whom there were 984 lunatics, and 561 orphan, deserted, and separated children. The inmates of the poorhouse numbered 1290.

The receipts from assessment were £76,476 (rate, 11½d. per £); from other sources, £22,010; total receipts, £98,487. Expenditure—on registered and

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casual poor, £89,735; medical relief, £2926; management, £8125; law expenses, £535; total expenditure, £101,322.

GOVAN DISTRICT LUNACY BOARD.

The Glasgow District Lunacy Board, having jurisdiction over the whole of Lanarkshire, was formed in 1857, under the provisions of the Lunacy Act. As the parochial asylums of Glasgow, Barony, and Gorbals parishes, with the assistance of Gartnavel and other asylums, were found to be sufficient to accommodate all the pauper lunatics chargeable for a great many years, this District Board had merely a name to live, but was dead.

As pauper lunacy increased more asylum accommodation was required, and about 1884 the District Board acquired the private asylum of Kirklands, near Bothwell, and increased it so as to accommodate 200 patients. But this was merely a temporary arrangement, and soon more room for pauper lunatics was required. The District Board then, at a heavy cost, acquired the estate of Hartwood, near Shotts, and made arrangements to erect an asylum there for 1000 patients. Years passed and no progress was being made; and when the plans were ultimately prepared they were found to be of an extravagant character.

Meanwhile the ratepayers both in Govan parish and the county had become dissatisfied with the protracted proceedings of the District Board, and especially with the unsuitableness of the site of the proposed asylum. The Govan Board endeavoured to be excluded from contributing to the cost of the proposed asylum, and, to extend their asylum at Merryflats, took the General Board of Lunacy in Edinburgh into the Court of Session to secure this object, but they were defeated.

The Govan, city, and county authorities then sought to get the huge lunacy district of Lanarkshire broken up and divided. As that could not be done under existing Acts, a bill was promoted and carried in the Parliament of 1887, and under that Act Lanarkshire was divided by the General Board into four separate lunacy districts—Barony, City, Govan, and Lanarkshire districts.

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Barony had sufficient accommodation for their lunatics in their splendid asylum at Woodilee, near Lenzie; the County Board bought over the Hartwood estate at an immense reduction and erected an asylum there; the City Board acquired the estate of Gartloch, where they erected an asylum; while the Govan Board purchased a portion of the estate of Hawkhead, in the Abbey parish of Paisley. The ground purchased contains about 190 acres, and the cost was £15,000. Contracts were entered into for the erection of an asylum to accommodate 480 patients, with an administrative department suitable for 600 patients, the estimates amounting to over £102,000.

Hawkhead was opened in 1896, and the total cost of erection and furnishing, including price of land, amounted to about £190,000. In 1902 the District Board purchased the lands of Old Crookston Farm, adjoining Hawkhead estate. The extent of the ground bought is 147 acres, and the cost was £24,872.

GOVAN COMBINATION HOSPITAL.

This hospital, which is situated at Shieldhall, is the joint property of the burgh of Govan and Kinning Park. The Govan Combination Hospital Board, as originally constituted, consisted of thirteen members—seven from the burgh of Govan, four from the burgh of Kinning Park, and two from the Govan Parochial Board. By the Local Government Act the County Councils of Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire were substituted for the Parochial Board. Lanarkshire County Council appointed a representative on the Board, but the Renfrewshire County Council did not, as the commissioners appointed under Local Government Act transferred all the territory they possessed in the parish of Govan to Lanarkshire. The Board has by resolution been increased by one member being added to the representatives of Govan burgh.

The representation is now—Govan, 8; Kinning Park, 4; and Lanarkshire County Council, 1. Kinning Park having been annexed to Glasgow this year, a further rearrangement of the representation will require to take place.

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CHAPTER XIX.

THE SCHOOL BOARD—FIRST MEMBERS—THE OLD PARISH SCHOOL—SCHOOL CENSUS 1873—SITES FOR BUILDING SELECTED—EDUCATION COUNCIL AND THE BOARD—SCHOOLS AND SCHOLARS OF TO-DAY—DATES OF OPENING, COST, AND ACCOMMODATION OF THE SCHOOLS—THE STORY OF ABRAHAM HILL—ANCIENT SCHOLASTIC RECORDS.

THE SCHOOL BOARD.

The first School Board for Govan parish was elected on 10th April, 1873, and consisted of 11 members. After a contest, the following were elected:—Rev. Henry Anderson, Rev. Professor Dickson, Rev. George Gladstone, T. R. J. Logan, Hugh Margey, junior, John Martin, John Napier, Rev. C. A. M'Kenzie, Rev. John M'Coll, Alexander Stephen, and Rev. Walter Ross Taylor. At the first meeting, held on the 22nd of April, Mr. Alexander Stephen was appointed chairman, a position which he continued to hold with much acceptance till April, 1885. The Board appointed as their clerk Mr. John A. Craigie; treasurer, Mr. James Paterson; and chief officer, Mr. James Muir. Mr. Paterson died in 1902, and the offices of clerk and treasurer were combined under Mr. (now Dr.) Craigie. From 1885 to 1891 the chair was filled by Mr. George Crichton, who was succeeded in April, 1891, by the Rev. Henry Bremner, D.D. In 1897 the Rev. John Smith, D.D., became chairman, a position he still holds.

The year 1876 saw the number of members increased to 13, and two or three years later, on account of the increase in population, to 15, the maximum number.

The parish of Govan over which the Board has charge lies outwith the Parliamentary boundary of Glasgow, on both sides of the river Clyde. It extends

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on the south from Polmadie, on the east to the burgh of Renfrew, on the west and on the north from the Kelvin to the Whiteinch Burn, the area being 6000 acres. The population in 1871 was 56,754; in 1881 it was 122,963; in 1891 it had increased to 158,007; in 1901 the figures were 208,053; and the increase is still going on apace from year to year.

The beginnings of the Board were very modest. By statute the old Parish School at Govan Cross became vested in the Board at their election. The building, as our illustration shows, consisted of two storeys, was old—it was built between 1788 and 1800—and not well adapted for teaching purposes. Originally the schoolmaster's house was on the upper floor, and the schoolroom below, but latterly the upper flat had been used as a class-room. There was accommodation of a very inferior kind for 210 children. It would have been the duty of the Board to have provided a new school of much larger dimensions, but, fortunately for the ratepayers, there was a rich endowment connected with the school which enabled the trustees of Abraham Hill's Trust—referred to further on—to erect a handsome building to accommodate 860 scholars. It was opened in August, 1875.

In accordance with the Education (Scotland) Act, Sec. 27, the Board at the outset ordered inquiry to be made regarding the accommodation and attendance at the existing schools in the parish, and it was agreed that a school census should be taken as a basis for future operations. This important inquiry was laid before the members at their meeting in August, 1873, and it showed the following result:—

Children between 5 and 13 years of age,	11,082
Receiving education, - - - -	7,300
Not at school, 34·1 per cent., or - -	3,782

There were 47 schools in the parish, 15 of which were under Government inspection, 7 were private adventure elementary schools, and 25 were higher-class schools. It was found that provision would require to be made for upwards of 3000 children. Some of the schools were found to be overcrowded and others very unsuitable, while there remained a large number of

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By permission of Govan School Board.

The Old Parish School at the Cross.

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children not at any school. It was also ascertained that the managers of several schools would discontinue them; and, where the premises were rented, the Board resolved to carry them on, and, in addition, rent halls suitable as temporary schools to meet the requirements of the various districts, with a view to transferring the children from these schools when permanent buildings were provided.

Arrangements were made for continuing Govan Free Church School; Partick Mission School; Maxwell Sessional School, Kinning Park; and Govan Colliery School, Cathcart Road. In addition, a temporary school was opened in Merkland Street, Partick, and another in St. Mary's Hall, Govan.

The members of the Board residing in the various districts of the parish were appointed committees to look out for suitable sites for new schools. This important duty required careful consideration in the selection of localities sufficiently close to the district, as well as taking into account a prospective increase in other districts. After some time five sites were agreed upon, viz., Fairfield, Govan; Broomloan Road, Govan; Lambhill Street, Plantation; Calder Street, Govanhill; and Rosevale Street, Partick.

The Board thereafter, on October 20, 1873, forwarded to the Board of Education their "opinion and determination," proposing that five new schools should be erected on the sites referred to, making provision for 3350 children. In a supplementary report this number was increased to 4610. Sanction was received from the Education Board to erect the five new schools, and also to enlarge Partick Free Church School, and five architects were appointed to draw up plans. A serious difficulty was met with in conforming to the rules of the Department in London, which restricted the width of a school to 22 feet.

This restriction was considered by the Govan authorities quite unsuitable for large schools, and after communication with the Department and with the leading School Boards, a large meeting was held in the Glasgow board-room to consider the subject.

The result was that a deputation waited on the president and vice-president of the Committee of Council

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on Education. A considerable number of Scotch members of Parliament joined the deputation and laid the matter before their Lordships. The Department shortly afterwards—in April, 1874—granted liberty to build schoolhouses up to a width of 32 feet, and to arrange the furniture as the School Boards thought best.

In consequence of the difficulty with the Department, considerable delay was occasioned before the plans were approved, and building operations were not commenced till August, 1874. However, in rather more than a year, the buildings were completed and opened by the Board. The five new schools provided accommodation at 8 square feet per child for 4610 children, and the total expenditure incurred amounted to £43,995. This sum included the cost of the enlargement of the Anderson Street School, Partick, and the purchase of the Broomloan site. The following interesting table gives particulars regarding the Board's schools, and affords an idea of the present-day gigantic operations of our worthy educational body:—

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GOVAN SCHOOL BOARD—1904.

School.	Date of Opening.	Accommodation.	Cost of School, including Furniture.
Polmadie	1881	1,184	£8,133
Victoria	1905	1,236	19,933
Calder Street	1875	950	6,750
Govanhill	1886	1,010	10,720
Strathbungo	1895	1,474	19,698
Pollokshields	1879	788	6,585
Albert Road	1882	863	19,160
Kinning Park	1877	1,507	11,739
Rutland Crescent	1884	971	8,972
Lambhill Street	1875	1,515	10,573
Lorne Street	1894	1,414	11,609
Bellahouston Academy	1885	973	13,085
,, P.T. Institute	1901	...	11,285
Copeland Road	1885	1,280	9,922
Broomloan Road	1875	1,922	23,799
Harmony Row	1883	1,009	6,811
Hill's Trust	1899	827	2,245
Fairfield	1875	1,775	15,858
Greenfield	1902	1,306	21,298
Elder Park	1899	1,321	18,101
Whiteinch	1877	1,447	15,221
Thornwood	1900	1,348	21,120
Rosevale Street	1875	1,124	7,301
Hamilton Crescent	1887	970	12,925
Anderson Street*	1874	587	3,065
Stewartville	1891	1,450	16,620
Dowanhill	1896	1,579	19,605
Church Street†	1878	1,308	3,420
Hillhead	1885	1,321	14,917

* Discontinued. † New School opened 1904.

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The following figures indicate the financial rise in matters educational in Govan parish for the past 30 years:—

Year.	Gross Rental.	Assessable Rental.	Amount received from Rates.	Rate per £
1873-74	£391,483	£313,781	£4,500	*4d.
1883-84	742,520	594,479	10,000	4d.
1893-94	886,888	709,882	22,400	8d.
1902-03	1,314,404	1,051,695	53,500	1s. 1d.

* During 1874-75-76-77-78-79 the rate was 3d.

As we have seen, the old parish school at the Cross was the first establishment acquired by the Govan Board. It gave accommodation to 210 children. Immense indeed has been the stride taken by our educational authorities from that humble "loupin' aff stane." To-day the number of schools has increased to 27, affording accommodation for 33,868 children. A further idea of the immense growth of the Board's work may be gathered from the fact that, whereas in November, 1873, the number of children on the roll in Board schools was 1338, the number is now 30,395, requiring 840 teachers, exclusive of visiting masters. Indeed the permanent school, accommodation, magnificent though it be, is not yet sufficient for the requirements, the rapid growth of the population necessitating the erection of a large school practically every year.

Of the 27 schools in the parish four are fee-paying and 23 are free, there being one of the former class in Govan and Partick burghs respectively, and one each in Hillhead and Pollokshields. In addition to the ordinary elementary schools, the Board have in operation six higher-grade or secondary departments in which scholars are prepared for the university, as well as for commercial and industrial pursuits. These departments are attended by over 1000 scholars; they are open to all the children in the parish who, having reached a certain standard, desire to pursue their education into the higher branches. Four of them are

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fee-paying, with a sufficiency of free places for the districts they serve, and two of them are wholly free. The Board have a school for deaf mute children in Govan, and also one for mentally defective children. They have established a school for physically defective children in Partick, and opened a class for mentally defective children there in 1905.

Up till about 1891 there existed in the burgh an endowed school whose history warrants more than a passing notice. This establishment was known as Abraham Hill's Trust School. It was named after the founder, a native of Govan, who became a successful merchant of Wolverhampton, and who, by his deed of mortification, dated 12th March, 1757, vested the sum of £200 sterling in trustees to be applied to the purchase of lands lying within or near the parish of Govan. The history of this Trust is an interesting example of the development of the place. The revenue of the lands was to be paid to the schoolmaster settled by the heritors of the parish in "the village of Meikle Govan" on condition of his "being bound and obliged gratis, or without fee, gratuity, or reward, conscientiously to teach, learn, and instruct in reading and the English tongue as many boys and girls, and teach the boys arithmetic and bookkeeping, as should from time to time be presented by the said trustees; but so as at no single time the number of the said presentees or boys and girls at school should exceed the number of ten, the name of Hill being always preferred"; which ten were to be presented from the "poorest families in the forty-five merkland of Meikle Govan and of such parents, if any such be, who are unable to pay school wage."

The land purchased by the trustees extended to about thirteen and a quarter imperial acres. Up to the year 1869 these were let for agricultural purposes, and the rent drawn was about £40.

But Govan had now—1869—its foot on the lower rungs of the ladder of success, and these lands, lying as they did within the modern burgh, became very valuable for building purposes. In 1871 the trustees were authorised by the Court of Session to feu them at a rate of not less than £15 per acre, and the following year

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the income of the feued portion of the land purchased, with old Abraham Hill's modest £200, was £634, while there still remained upwards of an acre and a half undisposed of.

In 1872 a private Act of Parliament increased the number of children to be educated gratuitously to 70. By the action of the commissioners under the Educational Endowments Act of 1890, the benefit of the Trust was extended, in the shape of bursaries, to the entire parish of Govan, the "free education" provisions of the Local Government Act necessitating such an arrangement.

Let us glance for a moment at the primitive scholastic arrangements within the village of Govan about the year 1790. We learn that, besides the parochial school in the village (kept by the same person who held the office of session-clerk), there were four private schools in the parish, the population of which amounted to a little over 5000! The parochial schoolmaster had at that time no dwelling-house from the heritors, and his salary was 200 merks Scotch. This sum, added to his different emoluments, the most considerable of which was derived from Abraham Hill's Mortification, amounted to the princely income of £40 a year. One is tempted to wonder if he was passing rich on that £40 a year. Doubtless, eked out with a liberal supply of goodly salmon from the Clyde, and an occasional Kelvin "troot," he would pursue the even tenor of his way, respected, admired, and mayhaps a trifle envied for his financial standing—his position regarded by the simple weaver as being altogether "gey bien"!

It is a trite saying that there is nothing new under the sun, and in illustration of this, as applied to the somewhat prosaic work of the School Board official, it is of peculiar interest to give a minute from the Session records of Govan Parish Kirk anent ancient methods of dealing with the refractory parent or scholar. It reveals the fact that the compulsory plan of education is not altogether an original system. The minute referred to runs thus:—"The samen day (June 26th, 1653) the session does ordain that everie elder in their severall qrters do search, who have children able and

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fit to come to schoole, and does not send them, to deall wt them for that effect, and to signifie that if they prove deficient hereinto, according to an old act of session, they will be oblidged to pay their qrter, as well as if they came to this schooll."

We find, however, stirrings of the educational spirit much earlier than the above. A serious grievance, and one which appears to have produced grave anxiety among the good parishioners of Govan about 1600, was the want of a schoolmaster. Complaint was made time after time to the College (the Principal then held the position of minister of Govan) on this subject. The fathers of those days wanted a schoolmaster "to teiche ze zouthe of ye parochin of govane duelland besyd ye kirk y^r of Quha may avaitt in ye affaires of ye said kirk and do his dewtie y^r intill as salbe Inioynit to him." In August, 1614, "the visitors of ye kirk of govane declairit that it was menit and regratit be ye elders and parochiners of govane that yei had not ane schoole to instruct and bring up thair zouth and y^r foir requeisted y^t moyand micht be made for the planting of ane schoole; as also that Georg Huchesoune offerit to dote the profeit of ane hundreth lib. to ane school for his p^t.

That these wants of the old villagers were eventually attended to, and a school "planted" in Govan, we gather from an entry in the Parish Kirk Session records. It is dated 2nd April, 1652, and is "anent the enlarging of the poores collectioune ye nixt Sabbathe; becaus yr is some poore schoolers yt stands in need of books to learn on at ye school." We may take it that those early educationalists liberally subscribed to the collection that day; and also that the hearts of the "poore schoolers" were full of joy at the prospect of a generous supply of books to enable them "to learn on at ye school." The latter premises may, however, be open to doubt.

One of the early schoolmasters flits across the stage in June, 1683. On the 20th day of that month a quaint minute in the Glasgow Burgh records informs us that the treasurer was to have a warrant for £13 4s. paid to "Thomas Young, schoolmaister in Govean, for the touns pairt of the Gorballis for helping the bell of Govean."

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Vast indeed have been the changes since that far-off time when the elders regretted there was not "ane schoole to instruct thair zouth." Generations of Govanites have come and gone; generations have passed through the portals of that old parish school at the Cross, long since swept away. Doubtless the majority were satisfied with what meagre schooling they received, but here and there would be some spirit chafing at the restraints, and groping blindly in the darkness. Thanks to the foresight of our fathers, these things are now all changed. The son of the soil starts level with he of the palace, and in the race more than oft does the former prove the better stayer. For the training which fits him for the struggle he has to thank the School Board. Mentally, they throw open to him the vast storehouses of education; physically, they present him with beautiful buildings hygienically perfect. He enters their sphere a rough, crude, undeveloped being; he leaves to-day, polished and equipped for the battle of life, in a fashion undreamt of by his fathers. And all this for nothing. Among the very foremost of those bodies to whom the youth of this country owe a debt that will never be repaid is the School Board of Govan parish.

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CHAPTER XX.

SHIPBUILDING—THE "COMET"—CLYDE SHIPBUILDING, 1859–1905—FAIRFIELD—JOHN ELDER—SIR WILLIAM PEARCE—ORIGINAL SITE OF YARD—FIRST VESSEL CONSTRUCTED BY FIRM—ROBERT NAPIER—COMMENCES SHIPBUILDING IN GOVAN, 1842—NAPIER'S FIRST LAUNCH—THE FIRST SEA-GOING IRONCLAD—HISTORIC VESSELS.

Shipbuilding made Govan and Govan made shipbuilding has, broadly speaking, quite as much of truth in it as another saying, famous now, regarding the Clyde. The world owes an incalculable debt, so far as sea-travelling is concerned, to the labour and mighty genius of such men as Robert Napier, who devised the surface condenser; John Elder, who first applied the compound engine in screw-propelled vessels; Doctor Kirk, who discovered the marine triple expansion engine, which is still the heart of fast sea travel; and last, but by no means least, that great shipbuilding genius, Sir William Pearce, of Fairfield.

All these men wrought in the burgh. Their genius sheds a lustre over its story. The fruits of their labours have reached the highest pinnacle of excellence in the shipbuilding yards established by them within the burghal boundaries. They have been the means of bringing untold wealth and consequent prosperity to the Clyde. On every sea the excellence of their workmanship is recognised and admired. "Clyde-built" is synonymous with perfection. Their foresight, energy, example, and superior brain endowment have trained and produced a race of mechanics unequalled the world over. The Govan-trained men are kings in the allied arts of shipbuilding and engineering: the elite of all working men!

The successors of Napier, Elder, and Pearce in the

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management of the great Govan shipbuilding yards inherit their genius for the work. Nowhere can we find more capable administrative ability; nowhere can we find better organisation of labour. For rapidity of production, combined with perfection of finish, they are far before all rivals.

Fairfield laid down, built, and launched a steamship of 5000 tons in 88 days! Such a performance is amazing. It is an excellent example of brilliant administration and capable workmanship. They can build, launch, and equip a vessel in Govan of 10,000 tons in nearly half the time taken abroad and at a third less cost! The design, workmanship, and finish are also much superior to foreign work. Therein lies the secret of the success of the Clyde.

There are no signs of waning power. On the contrary, everything speaks of virility and energy and enterprise. The vessels they launch to-day still take pride of place. Let us glance for a moment at the story of the germ of all this work: the story of the "Comet." Interesting it is to all. Highly interesting, surely, to the Govanite, for he, of all persons, has need to bless the memory of that fateful little craft.

It is ninety-three years since Henry Bell engaged John Wood & Company, of Port-Glasgow, to build for him the "Comet." All the world wondered. A good many wiseacres sneered. Vessels to be driven by steam against wind and tide! Preposterous! In 1800 and 1803 Henry Bell laid before the Lords of the Admiralty a scheme showing "the practicability and great utility of applying steam to the propelling of vessels against winds and tides." Of all the lords, Lord Nelson alone believed in the practicability of the scheme, but, notwithstanding his advocacy, "My Lords" considered "that the plan proposed would be of no value"!

Fulton, an Americanised Scotsman, who is put forward by some writers as the inventor of the steamboat, wrote to Bell about 1803 at the instance of the United States Government. He got what he could from Bell, and thanked him by saying "he had constructed a steamer from the different drawings of the machinery forwarded to him by Bell, which was

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likely to succeed with some necessary improvements." Cold and unfeeling, this man Fulton was one of these individuals who, borrowing the ideas of a poor or impoverished inventor, "improves" upon them and puts them forth to the world as original!

Although the name of Henry Bell is synonymous with the first steamboat, it cannot be overlooked that in 1802 Andrew Symington fitted up a steamboat named the "Charlotte Dundas," which plied the Forth and Clyde Canal at a speed of six miles an hour. In 1807

John Robertson, who built "Comet's" engines.

(From a very rare photo. in possession of Jas. Steel, Esq., Glasgow.)

came Fulton's "Clermont," and those who describe her tell us that her engine was uncommonly like that of the "Charlotte Dundas."

However, the credit of the introduction of the first steamboat on the Clyde rests with Henry Bell. On the 12th January, 1812, the "Comet," the pioneer craft of the war leviathan and magnificent steamship of to-day, commenced to ply between Glasgow, Greenock, and Helensburgh. She was 43 feet 6 inches long, 11 feet 4 inches beam, 5 feet 9 inches deep, and 24$\frac{52}{94}$ tons

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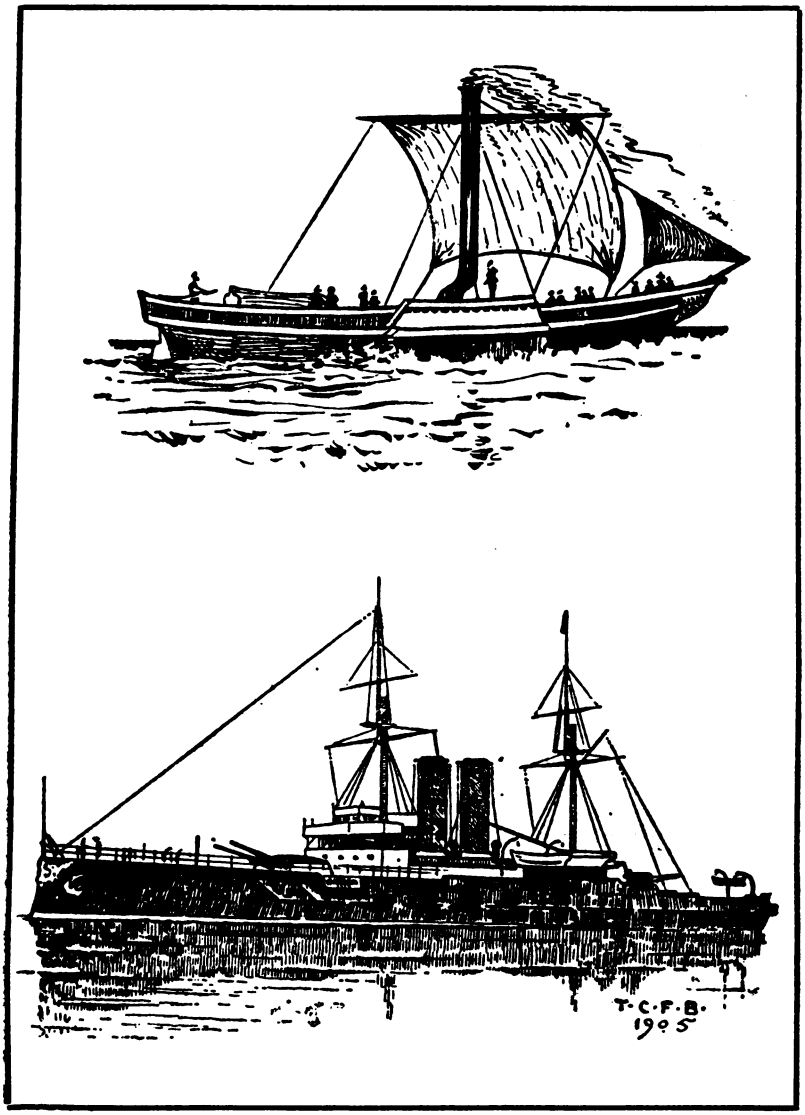

The "Comet," 1812.
H.M.S. "Commonwealth," 16,000 tons (built by the Fairfield Co.)

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burden. John Robertson, of Dempster Street, Glasgow, made her a four-horse-power engine, and steam was supplied by an internal flue boiler built by David Napier. The speed attained was five knots per hour. Her first master was William Mackenzie; engineer, Robert Robertson; and the crew consisted of eight hands, including a piper!

The "Comet" sailed the seas until the 13th of December, 1820. On that date she was proceeding from Fort-William to Glasgow, but was caught by the strong tide-race and easterly wind, and wrecked at the Doris-Mhor, outside Crinan.

Looking back over the years at this little marine fabric, how quaint does she not appear beside her children of to-day. What mighty changes have been wrought in the shipwright's art since the "Comet" left her first moorings off Port-Glasgow! That glorious archetype has revolutionised the ways of the ship-builder. They were men of exquisite skill who designed and constructed this craft, and their genius seems to have left an indelible impress upon the builders on the Clyde; on no one more than their successors who wrought in Govan. Let us trace briefly, then, the story of the great shipbuilding yards of our burgh.

We append a table which shows at a glance the tonnage launched on the Clyde during the last 46 years, and thereby affords an interesting comparison to be made of early with present-day shipbuilding output:—

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CLYDE SHIPBUILDING FROM 1859 TO 1905.

Year.	Tonnage Launched.	Year.	Tonnage Launched.
1859	35,709	1882	301,934
1860	47,833	1883	419,664
1861	66,801	1884	296,854
1862	69,967	1885	193,453
1863	123,262	1886	172,440
1864	178,505	1887	185,362
1865	153,932	1888	280,037
1866	124,513	1889	335,201
1867	108,024	1890	349,995
1868	169,571	1891	326,475
1869	192,310	1892	336,414
1870	180,401	1893	280,160
1871	196,229	1894	340,885
1872	230,347	1895	360,152
1873	232,926	1896	410,841
1874	262,430	1897	340,037
1875	211,482	1898	466,832
1876	174,824	1899	491,074
1877	169,383	1900	486,337
1878	211,989	1901	511,990
1879	157,605	1902	516,977
1880	241,114	1903	446,869
1881	341,032	1904	417,870

FAIRFIELD YARD.

This universally famous organisation, now known as the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Limited, is one of the largest shipbuilding concerns in all the great Clyde district, and, indeed, in the whole world. It dates its rise from the year 1834, when Charles Randolph and R. S. Cunliff founded the engineering establishment at Dale and Centre Streets, under the title of Randolph & Co. It is recorded that the first year's operations of the firm indicated work done to the value of about £2650, the outlay for the same period in wages paid being £1000 in round numbers. This affords a basis for a most striking contrast between past and present. In its now existing form the outlay for wages alone, in one year, amounts to as much as £500,000, and the fortnight's wages payments often rise to £30,000, while the usual number of men employed is 7000.

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In 1837 Mr. John Elliot joined the founders, and the firm became known as Randolph, Elliot, & Coy. In 1841 Mr. Elliot retired, and the business continued for a time in the hands of the original partners. The year 1852 marked an epoch of the greatest moment in the history of the concern. That event was the accession of Mr. John Elder to the co-partnership, resulting in the name of the firm being changed to Randolph, Elder, & Co. Sixteen years later this co-partnery expired —1868—Messrs. Randolph and Cunliff retired, and Mr. Elder remained sole principal of the house till his death a few months afterwards, in September, 1869. Out of respect for his memory and gratitude for what he had done to establish and maintain the reputation of the yard, the name of "John Elder & Co." was retained till the year 1885, when the firm was converted into a limited liability company, under the title of "The Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., Ltd."

John Elder's memory will ever be held in high esteem in Govan. He was a native of Glasgow, where he was born in March, 1824. He served his apprenticeship of five years as an engineer in the works of Robert Napier, under the direction of his father, working successively in the pattern shop, moulding loft, and drawing office. He was then employed for about a year as a pattern-maker in the works of Messrs. Hick, at Bolton-le-Moors, and afterwards as a draughtsman on the works of the Great Grimsby Docks. Before 1849 he returned to Napier's to take charge of the drawing office. As we have seen, he joined the firm of Randolph, Elliot, & Co., of Centre Street, in the summer of 1852. On entering, he at once applied his powers to effecting improvements in the marine engine, and was led to adopt and construct, with complete success, for the purposes of steam propulsion, the compound high and low pressure engine.

The first vessel fitted with compound engines by Messrs. Randolph, Elder, & Co. was the screw-steamer "Brandon." She made her trial trip in July, 1854, when her rate of consumption of coal was found to be about 3¼ lbs. per indicated horse-power per hour. The lowest rate of consumption of coal in steamers previous to that time was about 4½ lbs. per indicated horse-

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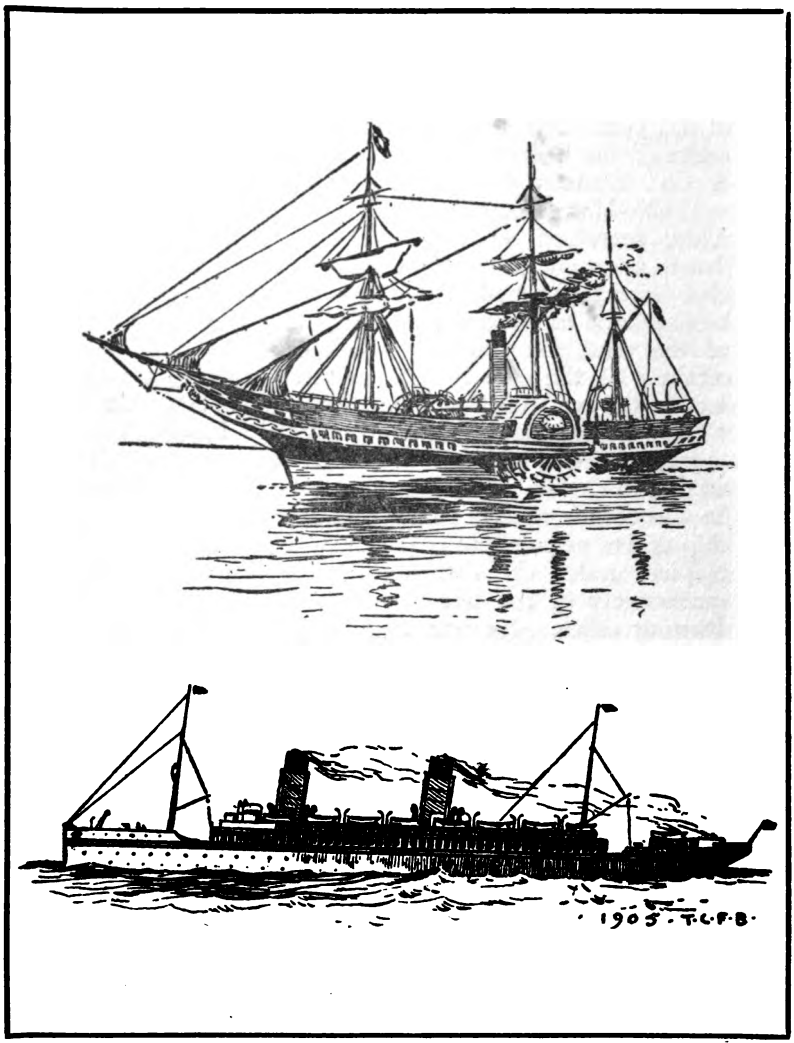

A Contrast—
"Britannia," the first Cunarder, and the "Campania."

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power per hour. The "Brandon" was chartered during the Crimean War as a despatch-boat, and maintained during many years of service the same economy which she had realised on her trial trip.

It is interesting to record that the last ship which the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. contracted for with this distinguished man was, on its completion, after his death, named the "John Elder," in compliment to his memory and in acknowledgment of the value of his services and inventions in advancing the prosperity of the company.

In April, 1869, at the annual meeting of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland, he was unanimously elected president of that body. Its members looked forward with extreme interest to the opening address which he would have had to deliver at the commencement of the session 1869-70. Their hopes were, however, destined never to be fulfilled. On the 17th of September, 1869, the sad intelligence of his death reached Glasgow, and thus was cut down, at the age of forty-five years, in the prime of manhood, one of the greatest shipbuilders the world has ever seen.

After Mr. Elder's decease a new co-partnery was formed, embracing Messrs. John F. Ure, John L. K. Jamieson, and Mr. (afterwards Sir) William Pearce. Nine years later, in 1878, the latter gentleman became sole proprietor, and his business acumen, combined with rare genius, enabled him to effectually manage the enormous concern. He added materially to its renown by the production of many of the finest vessels afloat, starting with the "Arizona," the forerunner of a long line of Fairfield Atlantic "greyhounds." In this vessel there was first tried the built crankshaft, now largely adopted.

Sir William Pearce was born in 1835 at Brompton, Kent. Trained from his youth in the dockyard at Chatham as a practical shipbuilder, he had the advantage of serving in the designing office of that eminent master shipwright, Mr. Oliver Lang. Recognising his more than ordinary ability, the Admiralty authorities made him superintending officer in the construction of the first iron ships built for Her Majesty's navy, and in 1861 the "Achilles" was built

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under his direction. In 1863, when 28 years of age, he found his way to the Clyde district, and accepted the appointment of general manager in the firm of Robert Napier & Sons.

It was not, however, till after he joined the Fairfield works that he rendered his greatest service to naval architecture. As head of the shipbuilding department he brought world-wide fame to the firm. In January, 1885, Mr. William Pearce took Mr. Richard Barnwell as a partner, and in the year following the firm was converted into a private company, under the title of The Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Limited. In 1887 Mr. Pearce, who had meantime entered Parliament as member for the Govan Division of Lanarkshire, was created a baronet, in recognition of his distinguished services to the naval and mercantile marine. This honour, unhappily, he was not destined to enjoy long, as on 18th December, 1888, he died at the comparatively early age of 55 years.

As his individuality had been a powerful factor in the success of the establishment the loss was felt to be almost irreparable; but so complete was the organisation he had built up, and so thorough the *esprit de corps* he had encouraged, that the company's prosperity was hardly clouded. The executors, six months after his demise, obtained the registration of the company under the same title, with a capital of £750,000, and Sir William G. Pearce, son of the first baronet, became chairman of the company.

Let us glance at the work Fairfield has done and is doing. The transatlantic service owes to the company's skill such world-famous ships as the Union Liners "Arizona" and "Alaska"; the great Cunarders "Umbria," "Etruria," "Campania," and "Lucania," vessels which have all held the Atlantic blue-ribbon for speed.

The magnificent mail steamers of the Castle Mail Packet Co., Ltd. (Donald Currie & Co.), have all been built at Fairfield. Included in this fleet are such beautiful specimens of marine architecture as the "Dunvegan Castle," "Avondale Castle," "Carisbrooke Castle," "Kildonan Castle," and the "Armadale Castle" —the two latter among the stateliest craft afloat.

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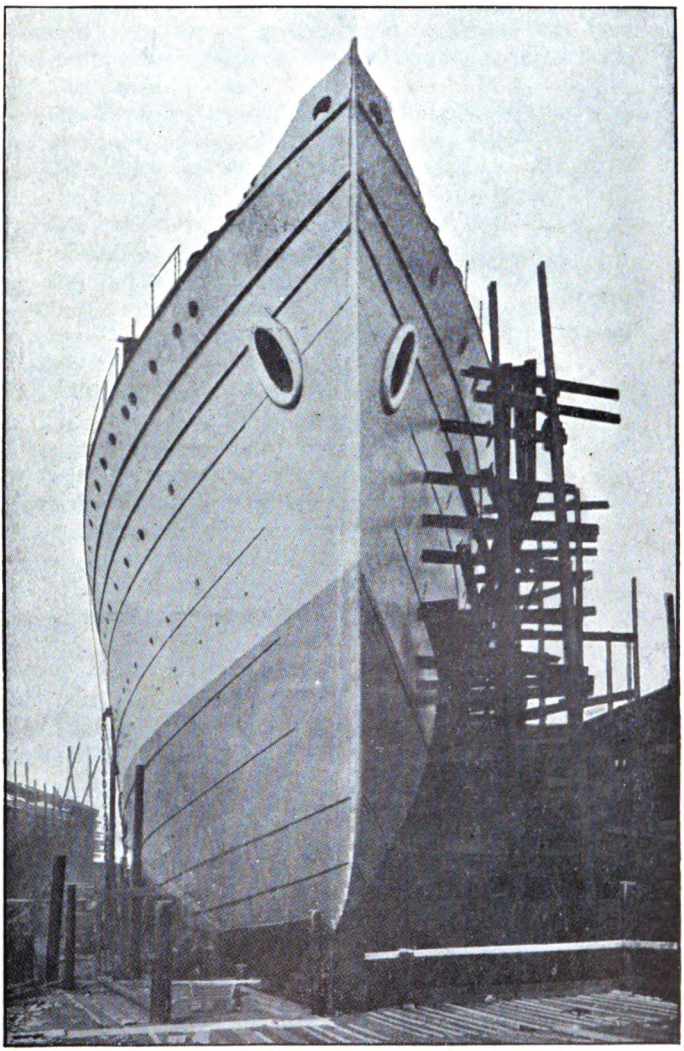

"Kildonan Castle" on the Stocks.

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For the Pacific trade the company built the "China," 4940 tons and 8400 I.H.P., the only vessel constructed out of the United States for the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., and it is matter for gratification to know that this Govan-built vessel made the fastest passage on record across the Pacific Ocean.

For the British Admiralty Fairfield have built a large number of men-of-war of all classes. These include, to name but a very few of the outstanding ships, the gun-boats "Condor" and "Flamingo," the turret-ship "Hydra," the first-class cruisers "Diadem" (11,000 tons), "Donegal" (9800 tons), "Good Hope" (12,000 tons), the first-class battleship "Commonwealth," of 16,350 tons, the two latest "scouts," "Forward" and "Foresight," with a speed of 25 knots each; and so on *ad infinitum!*

The original site of Fairfield's shipbuilding business was "The Old Yard," now occupied by Messrs. Mackie & Thomson. A commencement was made there in 1860, but the place soon proved inadequate for the fulfilment of the demands made upon the firm. In 1864 a portion of the riverside estate of Fairfield was acquired and the business transferred there in that year. The whole ground was ultimately acquired through successive purchases effected in 1865, 1867, and 1900.

The first vessel constructed by the firm in the "Old Yard" was the "Macgregor Laird," of 966 tons and 200 I H.P., and the present yard was opened in 1864 by the building of four blockade runners, ordered by the enterprising, if unfortunate, firm of Collie & Co., of London. These four steamships were all completed and off to Bermuda in a little over four months from the date of the order—a forecast of the greater achievements of later years. One of them, the "Falcon," earned considerable notoriety and was regarded as the fastest of the blockade runners.

The Fairfield works and yards of to-day are unique in their extent and magnitude of operation, and possess the advantage of having been planned and laid out in these later times with all the skill and judgment gained in the long experience of former years. In the epochs of change and development from paddle to propeller,

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from wood to iron, and latterly, from iron to steel, the firm has kept in the front rank of the world's shipbuilders. That it will continue to do so we need not doubt.

NAPIER'S.

The history of the illustrious house of Messrs. Robert Napier & Sons, now under the industrial supervision and control of Messrs. Beardmore & Co., of Parkhead Forge fame, furnishes probably the best and fullest epitome available of the successful application of steam as a motive power to the purposes of navigation. First as engineers, and subsequently as shipbuilders—both of which departments are combined in the firm's great business to-day—Robert Napier & Sons won, sustained, and the present proprietors carry on, in a continuously enhancing degree, a reputation to the unsurpassed eminence of which may be traced the foundation of the present prestige.

Robert Napier, the founder of the firm, was born in Dumbarton on the 18th June, 1791, his father being the proprietor of a successful business there as a master blacksmith and millwright. He served an apprenticeship to his father, and at the age of twenty he betook himself to Edinburgh, where he entered the service of the Messrs. Stevenson, of lighthouse renown. Thus two or three years passed, and in 1815, when barely twenty-four years old, Robert Napier started as an engineer and blacksmith in Greyfriars Wynd, Glasgow.

For some time, about this period, his cousin David had controlled the Camlachie Foundry, and eventually Robert transferred his own industry to that establishment on its being vacated by his relative, and embarked there on a scale of considerable importance in the construction of factory engines. Marine engineering has been the speciality par excellence of the firm, and consequently an epoch in the history of the house is marked at the year 1823, when Robert Napier built his first pair of marine engines for the paddle-steamer "Leven," a small vessel of 86 feet long. After working many years on the Clyde, the engine was, in 1844, transferred to the "Queen of Beauty," which ran on the

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Where Robert Napier was born.

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Gareloch till the late fifties. This machinery now stands on the Dumbarton Pier, a monument of honest workmanship, and a relic of a bygone age.

He left the Camlachie establishment in 1828, and took up his quarters at the Vulcan Foundry, subsequently adding the Lancefield to the Vulcan Foundry.

In 1840 came the first Government order for the engines of the warships "Stromboli" and "Vesuvius," and in 1842 the firm commenced iron shipbuilding, in addition to its engineering undertakings.

The shipbuilding yard of R. Napier & Sons was established in 1842 upon the basis of the previously existing engineering firm in the neighbourhood of Lancefield, Stobcross. Through the extension of the Clyde Trust operations the firm was forced from its original site, when it secured, in 1842, the "Old Yard" in Govan (the ground was bought in 1841), on the removal thence of Messrs. Macarthur & Alexander, who first commenced shipbuilding there at the close of 1840. In 1850 Messrs. Napier opened a portion of the yard adjoining the Highland Lane (then called the "New Yard"), and for several years carried on both yards simultaneously. In 1858 the firm relinquished the "Old Yard," which was taken over by Messrs. James Napier & Hoey, who were succeeded in it by Randolph & Elder.

Robert Napier died in the summer of 1876 in the 86th year of his age. The memory of this illustrious man is one to be held in the deepest reverence not only within our burgh but all the world over. He was the parent and patriarch of modern engineering and shipbuilding. By his genius an immense trade was brought to the Clyde, and owing to the excellence of his work the prejudice, long entertained by the British Admiralty against Scotch contractors, was overcome. There was much opposition when, in 1840, he got the order for the engines of H.M.S. "Vesuvius" and "Stromboli." His work was, however, so excellent that a comparison submitted to Parliament of the cost of repairs on his engines with that on engines made by English firms showed so much in his favour that the result was a flow of additional orders for Admiralty work. Highly interesting also is it to

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glance over the names and records of the many eminent Clyde shipbuilders and engineers whose terms of probation were served to such excellent purpose under Robert Napier.

When he removed to Lancefield his right-hand man was David Elder, whose son became, later on, the possessor of a universal renown as a shipbuilder. In the list of such men were Charles Randolph, the founder of the firm of Randolph & Elder; John Elder himself, who spent a considerable time with Napier in the study of marine engineering; Messrs. James and George Thomson, of Clydebank fame; Mr. William Brock, of the celebrated firm of Denny Bros., Dumbarton; Sir William Pearce, of Fairfield; Mr. Alexander Kirk; and Messrs. Hugh Dunsmuir and William Jackson, the well-known engineers who founded, in 1878, the celebrated engineering establishment in Govan of Dunsmuir & Jackson.

On the decease of this celebrated shipbuilder, Dr. Alexander Kirk acquired the business, and later the firm was joined by Messrs. James and John Hamilton. The Messrs. Hamilton successfully carried on the noble traditions of the firm for many years, and in 1900 Messrs. Beardmore, of Parkhead, acquired the business. So gigantic were the operations of the new proprietors that the limitations of space in the Govan yard compelled them to look for new quarters. These were found at Dalmuir, and the firm of Messrs. Beardmore & Company have now transferred their operations from Govan thence.

The first vessel constructed in the Govan yard was the iron paddle steamer "Vanguard," of 700 tons and 1000 horse-power, for the Dublin and Glasgow Steam Packet Company. She was launched on 29th June, 1843, and was the first steamer built by Robert Napier. What a lordly and magnificent procession of marine architecture follows this quaint but glorious archetype! Let us glance at a few. There was the Cunarder "Scotia," of 4050 tons and 4000 I.H.P., the last of the ocean-going paddle-wheel steamers, and the last fitted with side-lever engines. She was referred to, at the time of her launch, 1861, as "the champion and model of a mercantile marine steamer," and was the first to

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cross the Atlantic in less than nine days. The workmanship put into her was excellent. After carrying the mails for fifteen years she was superseded by the superior economy of the screw and converted into a twin-screw telegraph cable steamer, and, after over 40 years' service, is still extant under her original name.

The Government having sanctioned the use of the screw in mail vessels, Messrs. Napier launched the "China" in 1862, the Cunard Company's first screw steamer. She saw 20 years' continuous service, was converted into a four-masted sailing ship, and is still doing duty for Hamburg owners under the name of "Theodor."

Nineteen years later—1881—Napier's built the Allan Liner "Parisian," the first mail steamer to be built of steel, and the following year is marked by the advent of the "Aberdeen," constructed for the Aberdeen Line, to sail between London and Australia. She was fitted with engines of a class charged with the working of a revolution in steamship propulsion. These engines, designed by the late Dr. Alexander Kirk, embodied the principle of the now universally esteemed and adopted triple-expansion engine, with high-pressure boilers. In 1891 the "Ophir" was launched from the yard for the Orient Line. She is one of the most luxuriant steamships afloat, and, it will be remembered, served in the capacity of Royal yacht to convey the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall on their tour round the world.

A long list of vessels have been constructed by Napier's for the British Navy. The first was the paddle-wheel gunboat "Jackal," of 370 tons and 600 I.H.P., in 1844. The "Lizard" and "Bloodhound," of a similar type to the foregoing, quickly followed, and in 1849 H.M.S. "Simoon," one of the first iron steam frigates, and considered a "mighty fabric" in her day, was launched.

During the Crimean War, Napier built H.M.S. "Erebus," the first armour-clad, and constructed the machinery for her sister ship, the "Terror." The Admiralty hitherto had a prejudice against iron, but the bombardment of Sebastopol opened their eyes to some of its advantages, and accordingly "ironclads"

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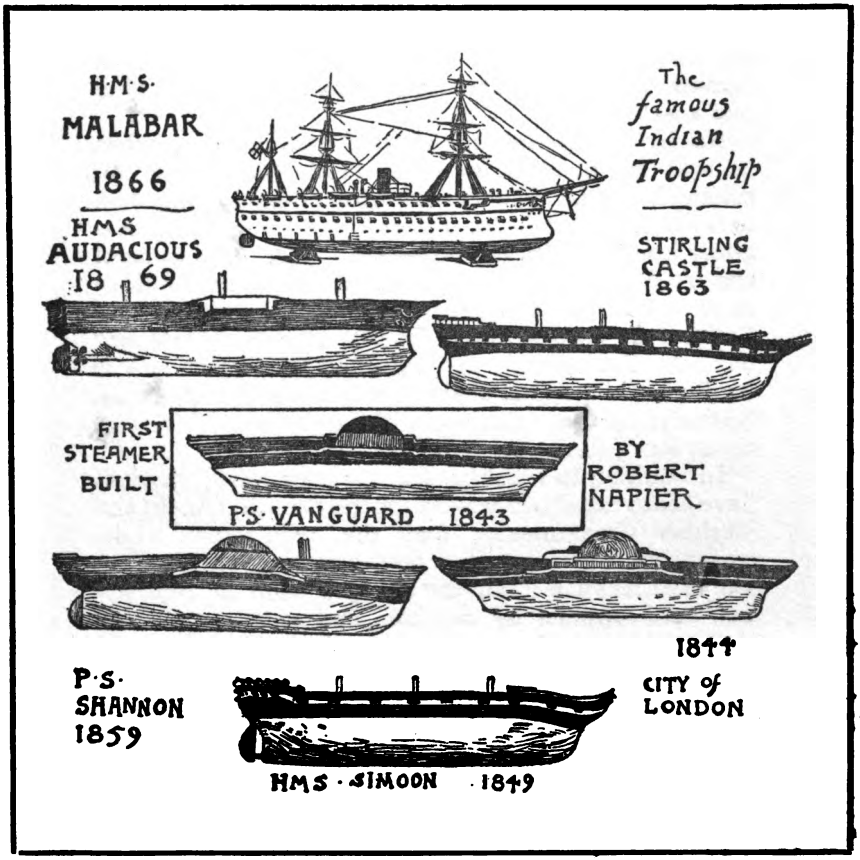

[*By permission of Messrs. Beardmore & Co.*

Famous Models from Napier's.

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were ordered in great haste. Napier was one of the favoured contractors, and got the "Erebus." She was a vessel of 186 feet long, 48 feet beam, clad with armour-plates 4 inches thick. The penalty for late delivery was £1000 a day, and the time allowed six months. Napier beat all rivals, constructed the "Erebus" with extraordinary expedition, and *launched her, with machinery aboard, in the almost incredible time of three and a half months.*

Napier had reached the allotted span of years, when he was again called upon to bestir himself for his country's good. The Government commissioned him to build H.M.S. "Black Prince," one of the first sea-going ironclads Britain possessed. Her displacement was close on 10,000, and her launch was considered an event warranting a public holiday in Glasgow.

The year 1866 saw the famous H.M.S. "Malabar" put into the water. As the "old Malabar" she is familiar to thousands of soldiers in Great Britain as an Indian troopship. She was withdrawn from this service about four years ago.

In addition to warships for our own navy, Napier's have constructed war vessels for the Danish, Dutch, and Turkish Governments, and the twin-screw triple-expansion engines, of 12,000 horse-power, for the Imperial Russian ironclad "Sinope," built at Sevastopol, were supplied by the firm, and were the first on that principle designed for a man-o'-war!

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CHAPTER XXI.

THE LONDON AND GLASGOW SHIPBUILDING CO.—ITS INCEPTION—FIRST VESSEL LAUNCHED—FOUNDERS OF CO.—THE "OLD YARD"—MACKIE & THOMSON—FORMER FIRMS—ALEX. STEPHEN & SONS—OLD LINTHOUSE ESTATE—ITS HISTORY—THE "GARDEN OF EDEN"—THE TURBINE "VIRGINIAN."

THE LONDON AND GLASGOW YARD, LTD.

One of the oldest-established, and among the foremost in extent and importance, of the shipyards of the Clyde is that controlled by the London and Glasgow Co., Ltd. It dates its rise from the year 1843, when Messrs. Smith & Rodgers first commenced the construction of ships on the strip of land, bordering the Clyde, known as Middleton Estate. Hence the appellation Middleton Shipbuilding Yard. Among the older generation of Govanites, however, the yard is still spoken of as "Rodgers," in memory of the founders, Smith & Rodgers, who carried on business there for a period of twenty-one years. The first vessel launched from this yard was the paddle steamer "Caledonia" in 1844. She was 132 feet in length, and 15 feet 4 inch beam, with a gross tonnage of 110 tons, and sailed originally between Glasgow and Kilmun. Her master was Dugald Thompson, a well-known figure on the Clyde in his day. In the same year, and the second boat launched by the firm, was the "Edinburgh Castle." Her dimensions showed a length of $138\frac{1}{10}$ feet, with a beam of $15\frac{8}{10}$ feet, and 110 tons gross tonnage. She also ran on the Kilmun route, but eventually was transferred elsewhere. As showing the excellent quality of the workmanship put into the vessel, it is interesting to mention that she was re-named "Glengarry," and plies to the present day in the Caledonian Canal.

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In April of 1864 the London and Glasgow Co., Ltd., was formed, and took over Messrs. Smith & Rodgers' enterprise. The founders of the company were—Capt. Hamilton, R.N., Middlesex; James Rennie, Esq., late marine superintendent, East India; John Elin, Esq., merchant, London; James Rodger, Esq., engineer, Glasgow; David Macpherson, merchant, London; J. Walker, merchant, Middlesex; and Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P., Middlesex. Shortly after commencing operations the new owners purchased from the Lochhead heirs the large piece of ground immediately adjoining the yard of Messrs. Mackie & Thomson, and thus materially increased the building and launching facilities of their property.

With the view of being able to undertake the largest and best class of shipbuilding and engineering work, ground was also bought at Lancefield, and a boiler-shop erected thereon. At that time—1865—and with these additions, there was nothing on the Clyde, or for that matter anywhere, to cope with the rapidity with which work could be produced by the firm. The result of these extensive alterations and additions, combined with the production of the very finest material, was that the foundations were securely laid of the present extensive and justly-famed yard. Excellent administrative ability has characterised the management of the firm's affairs from then to the present day.

Neither money nor time has been spared to secure the best of everything in the shipbuilding and engineering developments of the times. In these two departments the firm's business has been one of continuous development and increase, and a long succession of distinct triumphs and advances mark the various years from '64 to the present day.

Such a stately craft as the "Nam Sang," built for the India-China Steam Navigation Company in 1902, stands as an ample instance of the firm's capabilities in the construction of steel steamships of the largest size. They have also built and completely equipped vessels for the Cunard Line, Glen Line, the old State Line, Clyde Shipping Company, the Great Eastern Railway, Japan Mail Steamship Company, Canadian-Atlantic,

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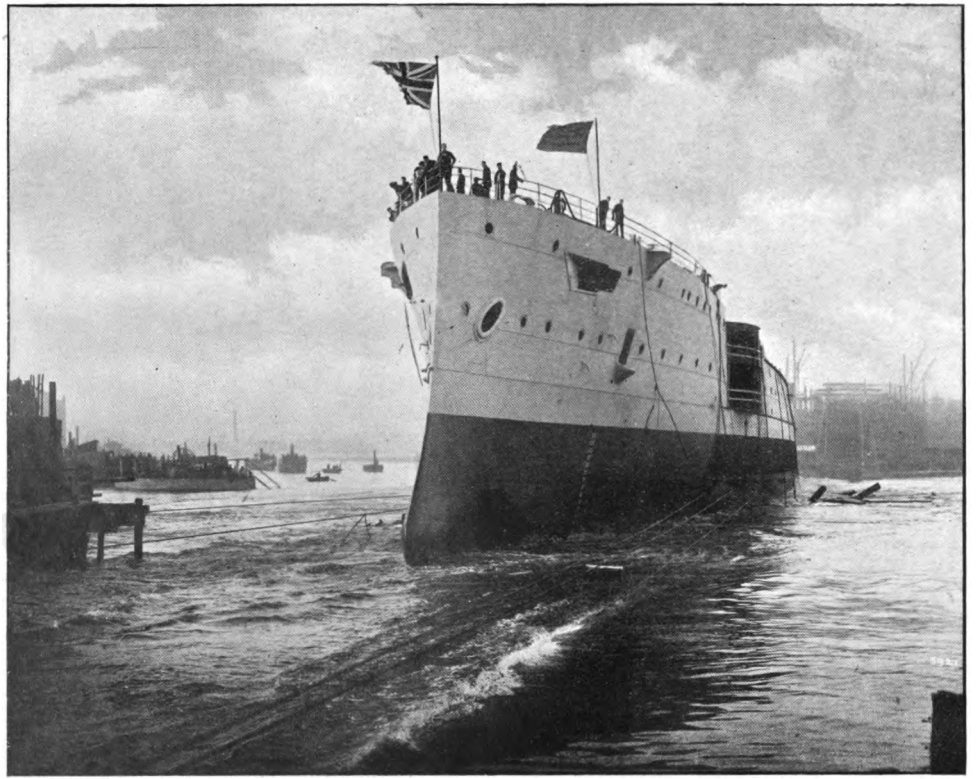

From photo lent by the London & Glasgow Shipbuilding Co.

Launch of H.M.S. "Roxburgh," 14,000 tons.

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and so on *ad infinitum*. The superb steamships that have left the London and Glasgow yard to enter the various services of these distinguished organisations, rank to-day among the staunchest and swiftest afloat.

In addition to the vast volume of shipbuilding and engineering work done for notable mercantile marine concerns, the firm have built largely for the British Government. Some of the most modern and very finest of the colossal floating fortresses of these latter days have been launched from this yard. In 1890 came the first Admiralty order, and in 1891 the first-class cruisers "Indefatigable," "Intrepid," and "Iphigenia" were put into the water. Since then the company have amply demonstrated their capacity for the building of men-o'-war, and in 1904 their launch of the gigantic cruiser "Roxburgh" manifested this fact to the satisfaction of all.

The firm's works and yard of to-day cover a very great area of ground and lie on both sides of the Clyde, the engineering shops being situated on the north bank and the shipbuilding yards on the south. The facilities, both at the engine works and the shipyard, are of the most complete description, and the entire establishment, when in full operation, affords employment to an enormous force of men. The control of the dual industry and the administration of all its practical affairs are vested in Mr. J. W. Shepherd, one of the best-known of Clyde shipbuilders.

Mr. David Kinghorn was the first manager of the establishment, and held this onerous position until 1888, a period of 22 years, when he was succeeded by Mr. Shepherd. The latter gentleman was one of that famous galaxy of Napier apprentices to whom the successful development of the shipbuilding industry on the Clyde owes so much. He afterwards served in Sheerness Dockyard, returning to Napier's in the capacity of shipyard manager. On Robert Napier giving up business, Mr. Shepherd joined the Fairfield Company in a similar role, subsequently coming to the L. & G. in 1888.

Little more remains to be told of the story of the London and Glasgow Company. They possess a reputation that has been justified to the full by the

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work identified with their name. Thus far all that has been undertaken and accomplished by the firm stands as an assurance that for them and the great business they control continued fortune and additional fame lie in the prospective.

THE OLD YARD.

Adjoining the London and Glasgow yard, to the left, is the shipbuilding yard controlled by Messrs. Mackie & Thomson, popularly and affectionately known to Govanites as "The Old Yard." Justification is found for this cognomen in the fact that within its gates were laid the foundations of that great shipbuilding industry to which the Govan of to-day owes its splendid commercial position and prosperity. We have to travel back to the closing months of the year 1840 to find the commencement of the industry in our burgh. In that year Messrs. Macarthur & Alexander made a modest beginning on a few acres of ground lying to the east of the old Water Row.

Historic interest is lent to the story of this piece of ground through its association with the great shipbuilder and engineer—the parent and patriarch of modern engineering and shipbuilding—Robert Napier. Here in 1842 he essayed the earliest of his ventures in marine architecture, and with ever-increasing success occupied the yard until his removal to what was then the "New Yard," adjoining Highland Lane, in 1858. Messrs. James Napier & Hoey then took over the establishment, and were succeeded in 1860 by Randolph & Elder, the founders of the Fairfield business.

When it was vacated by the latter on their acquisition of the Fairfield lands in '63, Mr. Thomas Dobie, who had been for several years acting as cashier with Messrs. Smith & Rodgers, opened the yard, under the designation of Dobie, M'Gaw, & Hedderwick. This company failed, and the concern was acquired by Messrs. Dobie & Co. On the decease of Mr. Dobie in 1871, the business was sold to Messrs. Young & Alexander, who carried it on, under the designation of Dobie & Co., till they failed in business in 1886. The Allan Line, having two large steamers in course of

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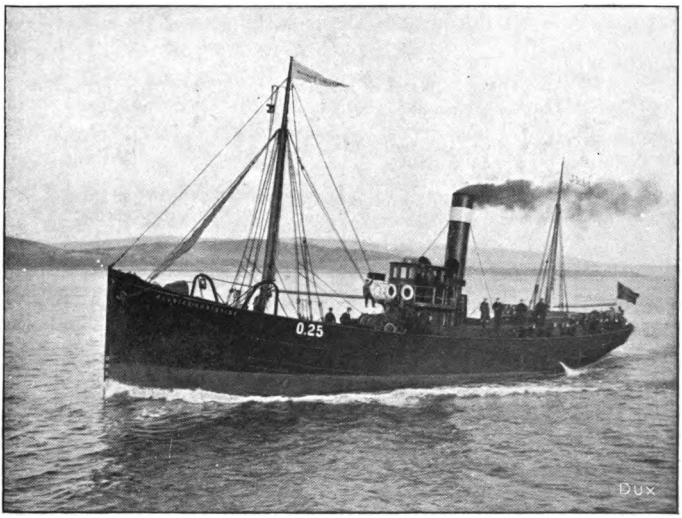

From Photo lent by the Builders.

A typical Mackie & Thomson Trawler.

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construction at the time, kept the yard going till their completion, and in October, 1888, it was acquired by Messrs. Mackie & Thomson, who have carried it on with great ability ever since.

Apart, however, from its great shipbuilding annals, this piece of ground calls for further notice historically. Up to the year 1840 there stood on it an ancient tumulus, which, if we are to rely upon tradition, was used, at a remote period, as the "Doomster Hill" of Govan. Indeed, the associations surrounding this tumulus, or hillock (the name is preserved in Hillock House) may carry us back to the dim and distant Druidical age, long anterior to the days of the moot-hill courts, ancient though these be. (See Chapter II.). It was known and spoken of by the old weavers of Govan, so late as the year 1790, as the Doomster Hill. The dimensions were respectable. Perpendicularly, the height was 17 feet, and the diameter at the base about 150 feet. In 1840 the utilitarian spirit of the time constructed on it a reservoir for the use of an adjoining dyework! Shortly after this, the "hillock" was partly demolished to suit the conveniences of the shipbuilding firm who took possession of the ground, but its site, to the present day, is easily distinguished from the surrounding flat ground.

This yard, whose claim it is to be called the Govan Shipbuilding Yard, occupies a space of six acres, between Govan Road and the Clyde. It has six building slips to the river front, and between these and the firm's offices, which border Govan Road, are ranged a long array of sheds, machinery shop, smithy, plate-working, joiner and patternmakers' departments—everything, indeed, requisite to the thorough working of a great modern shipyard. The speciality par excellence of Messrs. Mackie & Thomson is the construction of steam trawlers, and of late years practically all such vessels, built both for Great Britain and abroad, have come from their yard. The first vessel launched by Messrs. Mackie & Thomson was the steam trawler "Silver King," built for Hull owners, and put into the water in the early part of the year 1889.

In 1890 it had become evident to every business man connected with the fishing trade that the old-fashioned,

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although serviceable, fishing smack was unequal to the great and increasing demands of the trade. The firm, whose keen foresight made themselves acquainted with the needs of the fishers, built an improved form of iron steam trawler. The result justified their wisdom. Orders literally poured in, and it was only by building 15 at a time—three on each slip—that these could be overtaken. The success of their venture stimulated to further experiment. As a result the firm was able to patent an improvement in fishing vessels. This consisted in the introduction of wells for bringing the fish to the home markets alive, thus reviving, for the benefit of modern gourmands, the devices employed by the caterers of ancient Rome for the pleasure of the patrician epicure.

The class of work undertaken is by no means, however, confined to trawlers. All sorts and conditions of craft have been sent into the briny from this yard, and it is of much interest to mention that the two largest sailing vessels ever built in Govan were launched from its slips. These were the "Olive Bank" and "Cedar Bank." Their tonnage was about 2000 tons, and dimensions 310 feet between perpendiculars, 43 feet beam, and 26 feet 1 inch depth moulded. Each of these magnificent marine structures has four masts, and is square rigged in three, the aft pole having schooner or fore and aft rig. With canvas fully set such vessels as these form one of the most glorious sea pictures left to us in this prosaic age of steam, iron, and steel.

The two partners of the firm divide the work, Mr. Mackie attending to the shipbuilding and Mr. Thomson to the commercial side of the business. Mr. W. A. Mackie belongs to Kilmarnock, and passed through his apprenticeship as a shipbuilder with Messrs. Charles Connell & Co. Having served with the latter for 14 years, he next joined the drawing-office staff of Messrs. Alexander Stephen & Sons, Linthouse, subsequently attaining to the responsible position of head draughtsman. His partner, Mr. R. H. B. Thomson is a native of Glasgow. He served an apprenticeship as a civil engineer, afterwards entering a merchant's office in the city, where he acquired a thorough commercial experience which eminently fits him for the position he now holds.

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There is little doubt that the practical experience, sound judgment, and well-directed energy which has been a feature of the management in the past will, in the future, maintain the firm's honourable position in the commercial world at the same high level it presently occupies.

STEPHEN & SONS (FOUNDED 1787).

Though the most recent among the great Govan shipbuilding enterprises, so far as settling there is concerned, the firm of Alexander Stephen & Sons is older than any of the others—having been established in Aberdeen as far back as 1787. On removing to the Clyde the firm occupied premises at Kelvinhaugh for about twenty years before coming to Govan. In 1868 Mr. Alexander Stephen and his brother, Mr. John Stephen, purchased the riverside estate of Linthouse from the representatives of Mr. Michael Rowand, and the firm immediately began the construction of the present shipbuilding and engineering works.

At the period of the purchase Linthouse was a delightfully situated rural mansion. In many respects it was ideal. Its gardens were bordered on the north by the river Clyde, which, even at that time, preserved some remnants of its pristine purity. On the south front fully half a mile of sweet green pasture-land, dotted with elm, beech, and oak trees, stretched from the handsome Italian portico to the Renfrew road. Beautiful gates of hand-wrought ironwork, with a quaint old gatehouse, gave entrance to a noble sweep of avenue extending from the highway to the mansion.

Time, however, has changed all this. A sadly dilapidated lodge and the old mansion still remain to remind us of what has been. The lawns, the avenue, and the gardens have all been swept away to make room for the "slips," on which are built the gigantic liners and cargo vessels turned out yearly by the firm. Let us dip a little into the history of the estate prior to its commercial existence.

Towards the close of the seventeenth century Linthouse estate was the property of James Spreull, who for many years occupied the position of City Chamber-

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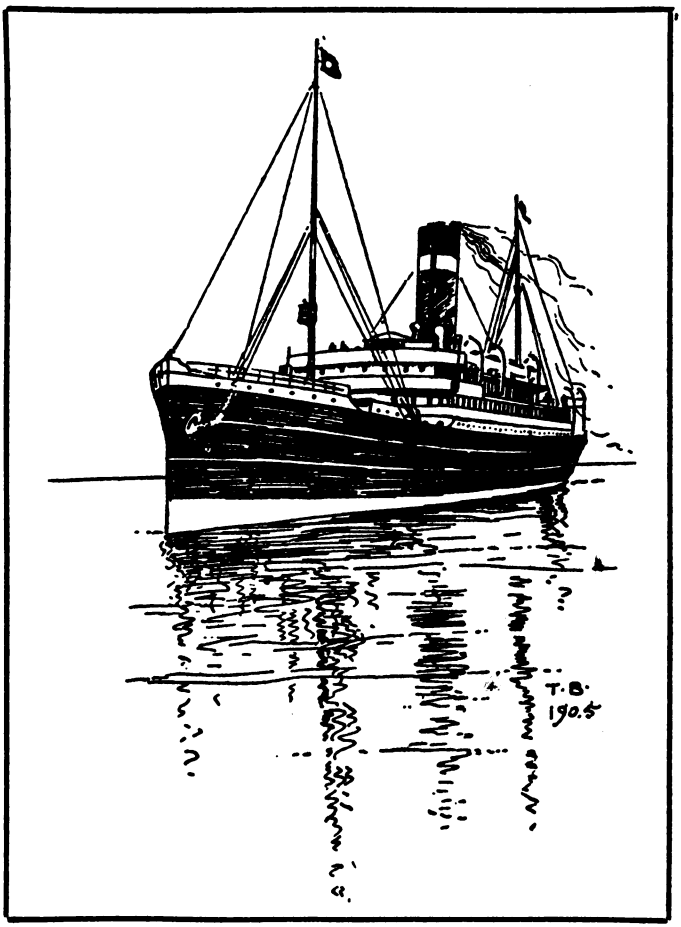

The Turbine "Virginian."

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lain in Glasgow. There was then a small villa of modest dimensions compared with the mansion which succeeded it on the lands. He sold the property to Robert Watson, banker in Glasgow, and this gentleman, about 1820, had the old villa pulled down, and erected on its site the mansion house of Linthouse. Mr. Watson resided there for many years.

After 1832 the estate again changed hands, being sold to Michael Rowand, cashier of the Ship Bank (founded in the Bridgegate by Dunlop, Houston, & Company in 1749). He died there in 1858, and ten years afterwards his representatives sold the estate to the Messrs. Stephen.

The lands. extending to 32½ acres, were then turned into a shipbuilding yard, and great engine works erected thereon. As a result, quite a town, composed largely of employees, has sprung up adjacent to the yard. It is built largely on the old lands of Holmfauld-head, and as South Govan, with a population of over 7000, it has, since March, 1901—when the ratepayers resident there declared for annexation—formed an important section of our burgh. Large though the district be, there are neither licensed premises nor public-house within its bounds. This fact, combined with its beautiful situation and cleanly aspect, has earned for Linthouse the Arcadian sobriquet of the "Garden of Eden."

The Linthouse yard is in every way a thoroughly representative Clyde shipbuilding centre. The premises constitute one of the finest establishments of their kind, and possess facilities of a character such as can proceed only from years of development under the favourable auspices of practical experience, enterprise, and personal capacity. It can be said with justice that all these qualities are found combined in the members of the firm to-day. Ever since the outset of their career as shipbuilders, Messrs. Stephen have executed work of the most varied and comprehensive character. Their output in high-class passenger and cargo vessels of the most modern type has won for them a reputation of the first order in the matter of substantiality and speed —a reputation which is being adequately and consistently sustained.

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The first vessel launched from Linthouse yard was the iron steamship "Glendarroch," in the early part of 1870. She was built to the order of Messrs. Ross & Co., and had a tonnage of 1509 tons. Since then, Linthouse has put into the water well-nigh every description of ocean-going and river vessel, steamers of all kinds and sizes, sailing ships, etc.

The firm* has the patronage of, and have built for, the most distinguished shipping and allied organisations of the day, including the P. & O. Line; Elder, Dempster, & Co.; Allan Line; Anchor Line; Clan Line; British-India Steam Navigation Co.; Leyland Line; United Steamship Co.; Hamburg-American; and so on.

All the world is familiar with their latest shipbuilding triumph, the magnificent Allan Line turbine s.s. "Virginian," of 10,754 tons. She was the first turbine liner constructed on the upper reaches of the Clyde, and since her launch, in 1904, she has more than fulfilled the high hopes entertained for her by the builders. Her speed records from Britain to Canada stand unrivalled. In beauty of design and excellence of workmanship the "Virginian" sustains not only the reputation of the firm but stands as a brilliant example of the celebrated workmanship of the Clyde.

* As we have pointed out, the firm was established in 1787. It has always been under the control of the Stephen family, and, with probably the exception of Messrs. Scott, of Greenock, is the oldest shipbuilding firm in the world.

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CHAPTER XXII.

MEMORABILIA.

GOVAN FAIR—LEGEND OF THE SHEEP'S HEAD—"AS DEEP AS HELL"—THOM'S LIBRARY—THE OLD VICTUALLING SOCIETY—ROYAL VISITS TO GOVAN—QUEEN VICTORIA AND THE GOVAN LASSIES—THE LAST WEB WOVEN IN GOVAN—A WOMAN'S LOVE—"WITH THIS FALL I'LL RISE"—"BURGH OR NO BURGH"—THE BLOCKADE RUNNER—A SHIPBUILDING CURIO—FATAL FERRY ACCIDENT—A SHIPBUILDING FEAT.

GOVAN FAIR AND THE LEGEND OF THE "SHEEP'S HEAD."

Like many another local custom, Govan Fair has vanished into the limbo of things forgotten. From time immemorial the first Friday of June was the great local anniversary, but no relic of this festival now exists—nothing but the tradition, still living in the memories of the older inhabitants, of the processions headed by the sheep's head, the ancient insignia of the village and the weavers. It is very interesting, however, to mark the progress of events which has gradually reduced the annual festival to a mere name.

Fairs in Scotland were granted sometimes by ecclesiastical rescript and sometimes by royal charter. Certain rights were thereby conferred upon the community, much as still is granted to several of the old royal burghs in the south of England. But the Fair of Govan scarcely can claim such special distinction, though there is reason to believe that it was granted by ecclesiastical authority about the close of the fifteenth century. The Govan Fair reached its zenith of success at or about the time when the Govan Weavers' Society was instituted. The election of the "deacon" of that

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venerable local institution was made the occasion of an annual festival and holiday—or rather a series of holidays.

The village band turned out at early dawn on the first Friday of June and serenaded the retiring deacon at his residence. If the deacon of the Weavers' Society resided in the west end of the village the band started from the extreme west boundary and marched along the main street to the east end. And, of course, should the deacon reside in the east end the reverse course of march was followed. But in passing each public-house on the route the band halted and serenaded the landlord, who in return was expected to come out to the street with a bottle of the "cratur" in hand, wherewith he regaled the bandsmen. The result often was that while the music would be more or less distinctly discoursed in the early part of the march, it became a confusion of sounds long before the journey was ended. But the great function of the Fair was the election of "deacon." All sort of quiet trickery was practised by the members of the society actively engaged in the promotion of the candidature of their nominee for the honourable office. Members were "closeted" in a "pub" or locked in seclusion if opponents. All parties followed this course of conduct. The result was that generally the election was effected by a majority of a single vote, and always by the very narrowest majority. The keenest interest was taken in the result, and until the deacon was duly announced the people reserved a respectful solemnity. But so soon as the election was over, and the new deacon was named and appointed to the high office, the whole populace gave way to jovial rejoicings. A general procession was formed, which then "marched" the boundaries of the village.

The famous "sheep's head" was hoisted aloft on a pole and gaily decorated. There is a curious legend in connection with the Govan sheep's head. One of the ministers of the parish of Govan, long, long ago, had in his service a young woman of very prepossessing appearance, and for the hand of this maiden a lover made overtures, as to whom the minister had great objections. Who he was, or what he was to trade, no one in the village knew, and the minister put his veto upon the

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alliance. But the lover is said to have succeeded in carrying off his belle, and, in celebration of the event, took the strange step of cutting off the heads of every one of the sheep in the glebe lands of the manse. These were left on the ground, and the populace siding with the lovers and against the minister took the choicest specimen of the sheeps' heads and did it public honour by carrying it on the Fair day all along the village street. Such is our legend.

After the villagers had thus marched the boundaries, they assembled at the Cross, where a slippery pole was erected, to climb which was an object of the greatest ambition to the rustic youth. Other games were also indulged in, and all the usual accompaniments of the country fair were to be found at the annual festival. Excesses of drinking were not uncommon, and generally the Govan Fair was a season of Bacchanalian pleasure in which all and sundry took part. The last occasion upon which the Fair was observed in Govan was on the first Friday of June, 1881.

"AS DEEP AS HELL."

There is a good story, which tradition has handed down, regarding Mr. Pettigrew, minister of Govan Parish Kirk in 1688. The rev. gentleman appears to have had more than his share of shrewd wit, and, indeed, this quality gained him a fame which extended as far as Edinburgh. In this connection it brings into touch with our burgh—then, of course, a small village —one of the famous Scotsmen of the time, Dr. Pitcairn, whom Kay has immortalised in his portraits. A clever physician and celebrated wit, Pitcairn was one of the outstanding men of his time, but he met his match, and more, in the canny minister from Govan, as the following anecdote displays. Pitcairn was professedly an Episcopalian, but he allowed himself a latitude in wit, which his contemporaries found some difficulty in reconciling with any form of religion. Among the popular charges against him in Edinburgh was that he did not believe in the existence of such a place as hell: a point of heterodoxy likely to be sadly disrelished in Scotland.

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Being at a book-sale where a copy of Philostratus sold at a good price, and a copy of the Bible was not bidden for, Pitcairn said to some one who remarked the circumstance—"Not at all wonderful; for is it not written, '*Verbum Dei manet in eternum?*'" For this a brother wit, a Mr. Webster, called him publicly an atheist. Pitcairn prosecuted Webster for defamation in consequence, but failed in the action from the following circumstance.

The defender, much puzzled what to do, consulted Mr. Pettigrew, of Govan, who was a great friend of his own, and whom he knew to be possessed of much shrewdness. Pettigrew went to Edinburgh to endeavour to get his friend out of the scrape. "Strange," he said, "since he has caught so much at your mouth, if we can catch nothing at his." Having laid his plans, Mr. Pettigrew came bustling up to Pitcairn at the Old Cross in Edinburgh, and tapping him on the shoulder said—"Are you Dr. Pitcairn the atheist?"

The doctor, in his haste overlooking the latter part of the query, answered, "Yes."

"Very good," said Pettigrew, "I take you all to witness (he had arranged for several friends being near) that he has confessed it himself."

Pitcairn, seeing how he had been outwitted, said bitterly to the minister of Govan, whom he knew well—"Oh, Pettigrew, Pettigrew, that skull of yours is as deep as hell!"

"Man, man," replied Pettigrew, "I'm gled tae find you have come tae believe there is a hell!"

The prosecutor's counsel, who stood by at the time, recommended a compromise, which accordingly took place.

THOM'S LIBRARY.

The following are the provisions of the Deed of Mortification by Mrs. Agnes M'Kechnie, widow of the Rev. William Thom, minister of Govan, referred to in Chapters X. and XIII. It is dated 30th April, 1811:—

£5 sterling to be yearly laid out in the purchase of coals and meal, in the first week of January, to the poor in the village of Govan.

£5 sterling to be administered in a similar manner amongst the poor of the village of Partick.

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Gift of printed Books, and £100 to purchase additional books, to be formed into a Public Library, in the village of Govan, for the inhabitants of the parish of Govan, to be called Thom's Library. A bequest of £5 is also made annually to pay the person who takes charge of the Library.

The trustees of the charity are the minister of Govan and the ministers of St. Andrew's and St. Enoch's parishes in Glasgow, together with the Glasgow General Educational Endowment Commissioners. The endowment consists of certain lands in the parish of Govan, so that the bequests are fully secured.

As the whole parish benefits by the library, the books are, and have been for many years, housed in the Parish Church Hall. They are under the custody of the Kirk Session, but owing to the fact that no librarian has been appointed for a long period, they do not draw any portion of the £5 bequeathed. It may be remarked that the books are not of very general interest, being mostly old theological works.

THE OLDEST BRITISH CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

The Govan Old Victualling Society has the honour of being the oldest co-operative society in Great Britain. This society was started on the co-operative principle by a few hard-headed and canny-going weavers in Meikle Govan so far back as the year 1777. So successful did the movement prove that it found within a few years a host of imitators, especially in industrial centres, although it was not until 1868 that the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society began business in Madeira Court, Glasgow, with a staff of six persons. The Govan society's opening venture was, however, on an even more modest scale. When the society started, 128 years ago, Govan was an old-world and old-fashioned village. Previous to this the principle of co-operation had never been actively employed in trading matters.

Doubtless these old weaver "buddies" found the germ in their own business experience. They had their "man" and also the apprentice to keep, it being the practice of those days for the "keep," *i.e.*, food and lodging, to be deducted from the "pay." The

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goodwife in her household calculations would not fail to grasp the elementary household principle, that it was as cheap feeding two as one, and we may take it that the guidman maybe saw a bit further—and we have the germ of co-operation.

Another feature which probably exercised an important influence upon our weaver was the difficulty of getting provisions for his household. In the year we speak of, and for long afterwards, there was neither butcher nor market of any kind in the village. All sorts of provisions, except meal and potatoes, came from Glasgow. Bread came chiefly from Glasgow also, and Glasgow in those days was three long miles from Govan. Every foot of the way had to be tramped, for those good old days boasted of neither 'bus, car, nor train. These considerations would set our weaver a-thinking, and the result of his cogitations was the Govan Old Victualling Society.

The society's first premises were situated in Main Street, just opposite what is now Hyndford Street. Indeed, one can still discover faint traces of the short loan which led directly to the shop. It was a one-storey theekit cottage, and little room was afforded for "display" by its narrow slits of windows. Doubtless it served its day and generation well—must have done so, or it would not have survived the stress of years as we have seen.

A dividend was at first paid every five years, but this period was gradually reduced until it is now paid every quarter. During the earlier years the dividend consisted of the profits divided equally among the members, but latterly the amount of purchase regulates the dividend. So well managed are the affairs of this parent co-operative society that the present-day dividend amounts to, on an average, 3s. 6d. in the £. There are 380 members on the roll, and each member must have a capital in the society of not less than three pounds, one of which has to be paid on joining. A committee of members administer all business.

ROYAL VISITS TO GOVAN.

The first occasion upon which Royalty honoured the burgh by a visit was on the 23rd of August, 1888, when

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Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice came to perform the christening ceremony at the launch of H.M.S. "Marathon" from the Fairfield Shipbuilding Yard. She was accompanied by Prince Henry of Battenberg.

At the launch of the "Livadia," the yacht built for the Czar by Fairfield, the Duchess of Edinburgh performed the christening ceremony, but the visit was a semi-private one, and there was no public demonstration.

Previous to that the late Prince Leopold, afterwards created Duke of Albany, made a private visit to the yard of Messrs. Napier & Sons in 1874. Old workmen still relate how they had the honour of shaking hands with the Prince, and explaining to him the technicalities of their machines.

QUEEN VICTORIA AND THE GOVAN LASSIES.

Her late Majesty Queen Victoria visited Glasgow on August 14, 1849. On that occasion the Queen, accompanied by the Prince Consort and the Prince of Wales, sailed up the Clyde in the steamer "Fairy." Crowds of people congregated on the river banks from Greenock onwards. At Govan the girls employed in the old silk mill stood upon a wooden platform overlooking the river, and greeted the arrival of the Queen by singing the National Anthem. As the steamer slowly passed Her Majesty graciously bowed her acknowledgments to the singers, who replied by cheering and waving silk handkerchiefs. These handkerchiefs were specially woven to be used for greeting Her Majesty.

THE LAST WEB WOVEN IN GOVAN.

In August, 1880, there died at 78 Main Street, Govan, a fine old weaver in the person of Alexander Dunn. Locally, "Sandy" was no ordinary man. He was born in Parkhead in 1802, his father being one of the old stock of Glasgow Chartists. He settled in Govan when a dozen years old, and had a distinct recollection of seeing salmon caught at the fisherman's hut just opposite where the launching slip of Messrs.

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Napier & Son stood. He used also to tell of catching trout at the mouth of the then pure Kelvin, and he could remember the first iron vessel built on the Clyde, and the "Comet" started by Henry Bell in 1812 to ply between Glasgow and Greenock.

He always showed the utmost contempt for policemen, and declared that had it not been for the Lindsay Act investing them with authority, Govan would have been a peace-loving and law-abiding town. Dunn finished his last web on the very day the steam tramway cars started in Govan, and *his web is said to be the last ever woven in the burgh.*

Sandy was a keen politician, and could give the history and virtues of the leading men of the age, down to Mr. Gladstone and Lord Beaconsfield, with remarkable fidelity, and over and over again indulged in the belief that he would live to see the Law of Entail and the Law of Primogeniture swept out of the statute book.

He would tell of the big wages, amounting from 35s. to £2 10s. per week, he used to earn, and how weaving was looked upon as an honourable calling. The old man was very poorly off in his last days, but in his old age he was not forgotten by several kind friends in the burgh.

A WOMAN'S LOVE.

Thirty years ago there were few folks in Govan who did not know the ancient-looking figure of Elizabeth, or, as she was more familiarly called, "Betsy," Howat. Her life was rather a sad and peculiar one. When a young girl, Betsy occupied the situation of domestic servant in the house of a country gentleman, and being possessed of considerable personal attractions, she was courted by a young man, who proposed marriage; but, before the wedding day arrived, he forsook her. For a long time Betsy bore her disappointment with great fortitude, always believing that the object of her affections would repent and return, and till the last day she occupied her own house, at 222 Govan Road, *she never barred or locked her door*, so that, as she believed, her faithless lover might come in without ceremony. Fate decreed, however, that this hope should be dis-

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appointed, and poor Betsy's reason fled. She was taken to the lunatic asylum, where she was detained for some time, and eventually discharged as one fit to take care of herself. She then came back to her old haunts in the burgh, and might have been seen every morning, as regular as clock-work, wearing a snow-white "sow-backed" mutch, tidy apron, and an antediluvian umbrella, taking her walk along the Govan Road. Her ideas of money and men were peculiar, and one gentleman, long and honourably connected with the burgh, was challenged by her with keeping up money and documents, which, however, had no existence except in the overstrained brain of poor Betsy. During her long residence in Govan she was found strictly honest, and used to say with pride that she "owed not any man," and when the factor called for his rent Betsy never failed to produce the sum, carefully wrapped up in paper. Sad to relate, a few weeks before her death she was removed, much against her will, to the poorhouse, where she closed a long, unhappy, and wrecked life in March, 1875—aged ninety-two.

"WITH THIS FALL I'LL RISE."

John Mair, who purchased Plantation Estate in 1793, was a fine old worthy. He was originally a stone mason in Paisley, and while engaged in some work on the Abbey Church he lost his balance, and would have been killed on the spot had he not grasped a projecting stone and hung on by it until feather beds and other soft material had been collected. He then dropped, and, although his life was saved, his leg was broken. His own commentary upon the matter was, "With this fall I'll rise."

He became a manufacturer, and, as there were no railways in these days, trudged manfully up to London with a pack of his patterns. He went into one of the fashionable shops and wished to open his pack, but the shopman—one of these rude Cockneys who are still extant—ordered him out of the place. Mr. Mair was very persistent, and the shopman, at last losing all patience, snatched his Scotch bonnet from his head,

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pitched it out of the door, and told him to follow it. Mr. Mair picked up his bonnet, and returning said, with unimpaired good humour, "Man, you'll surely hae a look at them noo?" This last scene had been witnessed by the man's master, and he made inquiry into the cause. He was so struck with Mr. Mair's perseverance that he asked him to open his pack, and then he was equally impressed with the beauty and originality of the designs. An account was opened, which became a valuable one to them both, but, in the course of Mr. Mair's business career, bad times came upon him, and he was obliged to succumb. He effected a composition settlement with his creditors, went on, made his fortune, and purchased Plantation. He invited all his old creditors to dinner, and, when the time of dessert arrived, they found cheques in their plates for the full amount of their debts.

"BURGH OR NO BURGH."

There was great excitement among the villagers of Govan in the beginning of the year 1864. Matters had come to a climax in the village, and a powerful section of the community had bestirred itself with the resolve of applying for and getting the village of Govan made a burgh. The feeling, however, was not unanimous, a good many old-fashioned folks expressing the opinion, accompanied by many a grave wag o' the pow, that "they kent whaur they were, but deil a ane c'd tell whaur they'd be," and similar wise sayings.

Few of the villagers got so excited over the great question than old Jamie Robertson, who lived, as many old Govanites will recollect, in "The Golly," near to Shaw Street. Jamie was one of the progressive party, and, as he expressed it himself, "deid on for haen the veelage made a burra." Our hero, however, did not stop at mere expressions of opinion. He went further. For weeks before the eventful meeting (described in Chapter XIV.), when the Burgh Act was adopted, everybody that Jamie met on the street was seized by the collar, and in stentorian tones asked the question, "Burgh or no burgh?"

If the answer coincided with Jamie's opinions the

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party was saluted with, "Man, ye're the richt sort," and a hearty handshake. But if the reply was "No burgh," Jamie would fly into a terrible rage, and—tell it not in Gath—if the party was physically his inferior, a slap on the "lug," or a kick in some exposed portion of the anatomy, would accompany Jamie's scathing indictment, "Ye muckle fule!"

THE BLOCKADE RUNNER.

During the course of the American War, in the sixties many a Clyde passenger steamer crossed the "herring-pond" for the purpose of being used in running the blockade, these vessels, owing to their superior speed and build, easily outdistancing any foreign-built rivals. Among the most successful of the craft sent across the Atlantic was the river steamer "Neptune," launched by Robert Napier from his Govan yard in 1861.

The "Neptune's" run was between Glasgow and Rothesay, and she was regarded as one of the swiftest on the route. The favourite steamers were the "Neptune," the "Ruby," the "Windsor Castle," and the "Rothesay Castle." Some amusing advertisements appeared in the Glasgow newspapers of this period, which indicate the high pitch which the rivalry between the owners reached.

Let us glance at one inserted by the owner of the "Rothesay Castle." He thus describes the sailing qualities of the boats—positive, "Ruby"; comparative, "Neptune"; superlative, "Rothesay Castle!"

The "Neptune" developed a speed of 20 knots, and the engineer in charge of the engine-room was Mr. Dunsmuir, now a partner of the well-known Govan engineering house of Dunsmuir & Jackson. After a couple of seasons on the Clyde, the "Neptune" was sold to run the blockade between Havana and Mobile. Mr. Dunsmuir agreed to go with her, and as a consequence got a fair share of the adventurous life of the blockade runner. His boat was repeatedly chased by Yankee cruisers, but she easily outstripped the fastest vessel in that navy. Eventually the "Neptune" became a marked vessel, and was repeatedly under fire. Despite all the traps laid by the enemy, she carried

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thousands of pounds worth of stores and ammunition through the cordon of the Yankee fleet, succeeding in running the blockade no fewer than four times.

A SHIPBUILDING CURIO.

On the 7th of July, 1880, one of the most remarkable vessels ever built was launched from the yard of Messrs. John Elder & Co. (Fairfield Shipbuildiug Co.). This was the "Livadia," a yacht built to the order of the Czar of Russia, from the design of Admiral Popoff, of the Russian Navy. During her construction the yard at Fairfield was visited by many of the most eminent shipbuilders and engineers in the world, and at her launching ceremony a great assemblage of notabilities were gathered together, amongst whom were the Grand Duke Alexis and Admiral Popoff.

This "yacht" had the following remarkable dimensions:—She was 235 feet long, 153 feet broad, and had a draft of 6 feet 6 inches.

Her gross tonnage was 7700 tons, with a displacement of 3920 tons, and, according to yacht measurement, it showed an aggregate of no less than 11,600 tons. Built of steel, on a turbot-shaped foundation, supplied with the most approved engines, and fitted internally in a highly luxurious manner, it was asserted, with confidence, by her designer that the "Livadia" would be the most comfortable, as well as safest, deep-sea boat ever launched. Her subsequent career, however, did not carry out these somewhat romantic and fanciful ideas, and upon the death of the Czar this yachting curio was discarded.

The launching ceremony was performed by the Duchess of Edinburgh, and it is of interest to recall that on this occasion Admiral Popoff, the yacht's designer, alluding to Govan, described the burgh grandiloquently as "*the centre of the intelligence of the world.*"

FATAL FERRY ACCIDENT.

On the 6th of April, 1861, a sad accident happened to the Govan ferry-boat, which resulted in the loss of seven lives. At that time there was not, as there is at

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present, a pier at Partick for the landing of passengers from the river steamers, and these were generally taken off by the ferry-boat plying between Govan and Pointhouse. On the date referred to the steamer "Lochgoil" had brought a number of workmen belonging to Messrs. Napier's yard, who had been employed on board the "Black Prince," then lying at Greenock.

It was Saturday evening, and, unfortunately, some of the men were the worse of drink, and when the ferry-boat drew up alongside the steamer these made a reckless rush into the small boat. It became greatly overcrowded, 40 people having forced into it, while there was only proper accommodation for 24.

The consequence was that the boat upset and the passengers were thrown into the water. Captain M'Intyre, of the "Lochgoil," managed to rescue the majority of the immersed persons, but seven were lost. It was immediately after this accident that the Partick pier was erected.

A SHIPBUILDING FEAT.

A feat never before approached in the annals of shipbuilding, and never likely to be rivalled, was accomplished by the Fairfield Shipbuilding Co. in 1888. In that year they launched from their yard in Govan the "Dresden," a screw steamer of 5000 tons, for the Norddeutcher Lloyd's Co., which was *built in 88 days.* As an example of the perfect state of organisation to which the art of the shipbuilder has been brought in the burgh, the building of the "Dresden" is unique.

The same yard, at the close of the Soudan War, built in 28 days 11 stern-wheel vessels for bringing the troops up the Nile. Concurrently with this, they built in 21 working days an hospital boat of larger dimensions than the other 11, and received the thanks of Lord Hartington, then Minister of War, for the remarkable expedition.

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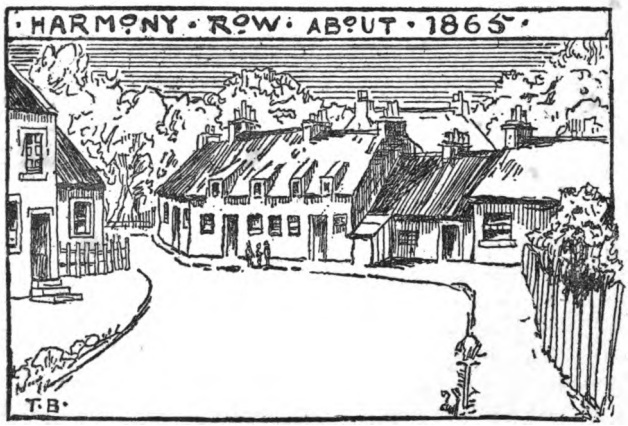

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CHAPTER XXIII.

MEMORABILIA.

THE BRANDY PARRITCH—OLD GOVAN FERRY—ST. CONSTANTINE'S WELL—AN ANCIENT TOMBSTONE—THE GOVAN YOUTHS' SOCIETY—BURNS CLUBS—TOWING PATH—STEAM CARS—JAMIE BLUE—"IMPHM"—THE PROVOST'S INSIGNIA—IBROX DISASTER—THE PARTICK RIOTS—LOCAL INSTITUTIONS—THE FIRST POLICE FORCE—GOVAN U.P. CHURCH—THE FREE CHURCH—GOVAN AND BELLAHOUSTON BOWLING CLUBS—BELLAHOUSTON LAWN TENNIS CLUB—THE PLACE-NAME GOVAN.

THE BRANDY PARRITCH.

Tradition hands down to us a good story of a certain guidwife in the old village of Govan. She was the helpmate of the proprietor of the ancient "Ferrie Bot" inn, and word was received one day to prepare for the visit of a great nobleman. Instructions were also sent to the guidwife to have ready a bowl of porridge for his lordship. Jenny—for such was the good old lady's name—was a celebrated maker of the national dish, but, as she said to the guidman, "she'd never made parritch tae a lord before, and it behoved her to mak something special, for dootless thae gret fowks didna hae ordinar' water broze."

His lordship arrived in due course, and asked Jenny for his porridge. Triumphantly she brought "ben" a trencher filled to the brim and a coggie of milk, then retired. To his lordship the porridge appeared somewhat dark in colour, but being hungry he at once attacked the dish. The first spoonful was sufficient, and both Jenny and her guidman were amazed to see their distinguished guest rush into their apartment,

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spluttering and yelling, "I'm poisoned, I'm poisoned; what on earth hae ye made that abominable concoction ye ca' porridge wi'?"

"Deed, ma lord," said Jenny, "I jist made them wi' brandy, as I thocht that wad be mair to a lord's taste than water."

"Guid save us a'," said his lordship, laughing, "brandy for parritch, that dings dicky! Jenny, wumman, ye can tak it frae me; a lord's wame's nae different frae ither men's, sae awa and mak me a guid bowl o' halesome Scotch porridge."

OLD GOVAN FERRY.

In the thoroughly up-to-date and modern harbour of the city of Glasgow, replete with the triumphs of latter-day shipbuilding and engineering, one does not expect to find much of the old-world or historical association remaining. The ruthless march of "modern science" has swept from off the banks of the "Clwyd" most links with the past, and within the harbour of Glasgow, from the classic Molendinar to the mouth of the Kelvin, there now remains but one characteristic of the bygone days—"the Olde Gouen Ferry!" In general aspect it has changed but little since the days, according to local tradition, when the good King Jamie, "wi' his clouted shoon and darned hose," came wandering by and spent "a jovial nicht" in the Ferry hostelry, then the only one in "Mekle Gouen."

So far back as 1734 we find the Smithfield Iron Company establishing themselves at Pointhouse, and their workers forming a little colony there. From that time the present ferry may be said to date, as, owing to the large business done by that company, they established a regular vehicle ferry in addition to the old passenger one. During the early sixties, with the increasing trade of the burgh by the steady rise of shipbuilding, the Clyde Trust found it necessary to provide further vehicular transport, and the first steam ferry was put on in 1865. A comparison of the daily traffic in the early years of the steam ferry with that of to-day gives an idea of the great increase of trade that has taken place since then. The average number

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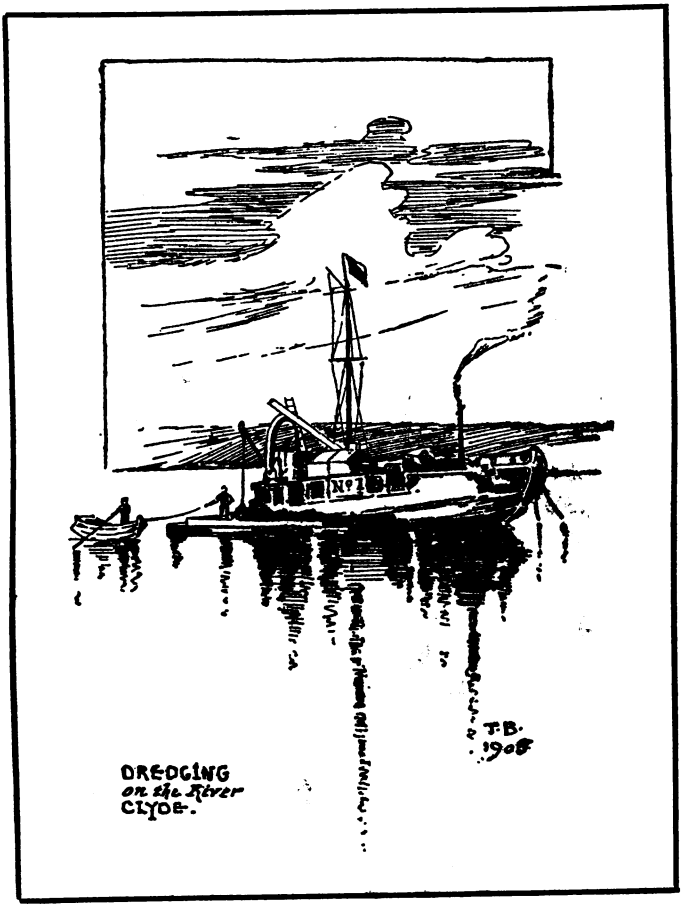

Bell Dredger at Work, near Govan Ferry.

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of vehicles per day in '65 was 7 and passengers 100; to-day the average of vehicles is 690 and of passengers 1500; while, it must also be remembered, the Subway and Meadowside cross-ferry take away a great number of passengers who otherwise would have crossed by the Govan Ferry.

It is of an older type than the other Clyde ferries, the accesses being by inclined roadways or slips, and the boat is propelled along two chains stretched across the river.

THE HOLY WELL OF ST. CONSTANTINE (?)

During the excavations for the laying of the foundations of the Pearce Institute the workmen unearthed an ancient well within a few yards of the Govan Road. It was dry, but the stonework was in perfect condition. The stones were all hand-wrought and presented every appearance of great age. The well was bottle-shaped, broad at the bottom and narrow at the mouth, and was about ten feet in depth. It was found about eight feet below the present level of the ground. There is no trace in any of the old maps of the district of a well being there, and within the memory of the oldest inhabitant there never had been a well at that spot, nor was there any tradition telling of it.

We have little doubt, judging by its ancient masonwork and its curious shape, combined with its proximity to the old churchyard of Govan—the first spot inhabited by man in the district—that this well dated back to mediæval times. Indeed, it requires but little stretch of the imagination to conceive of it having been at an even earlier period. The Holy Well of St. Constantine! Who knows?

AN ANCIENT TOMBSTONE.

For many years there was to be seen in a field which formed part of the farm of Laigh Craigton an old tombstone lying flat on the ground. It was inscribed with the simple intimation :—

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"Here lyes William Murdoch, son to Ninian Murdoch, Craigton, who deceased the 7 of March 1645, of the age 15."

According to Brown's "History of Glasgow," the inhabitants of this part of the country were visited in 1645 by the plague. It became very bad in Glasgow and the surrounding villages, and by a law of harsh necessity the people in outlying districts were compelled to bury their dead almost as soon as life was extinct. There is little doubt that this old gravestone marked the spot where a victim of the plague was buried.

The stone was removed to the Parish Kirkyard on the 30th of June, 1860. It is preserved alongside the Sarcophagus in the little house adjoining the "sculptured stones" enclosure, where it can be seen by the curious. The field in which the stone lay at Craigton was known to the old Govanites as "the Gravestone Park."

THE GOVAN YOUTHS.

The Govan United Youths' Society, a guild formed somewhat on the lines of the Weavers', was constituted in the early part of the year 1821. For many years it was a flourishing society, and reached the zenith of its prosperity about the early seventies. From then, however, matters did not proceed smoothly; and at a meeting of the society held on 24th September, 1888, a resolution was carried "that it be broken up and the funds divided."

This step one of the ex-members, Mr. George Wishart, endeavoured to prevent, and an action at law ensued. He was unsuccessful, and the society was finally dissolved the following year. During the hearing of the case the secretary, Mr. Sibbald, showed the necessity for the dissolution of the society from the fact that the income in 1888 was £16 and the expenditure £70.

BURNS' CLUBS.

The memory of our national poet, Robert Burns, is kept green in the hearts of the burghers of Govan, among whom are not a few sincere and perfervid

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worshippers of the bard. This is as it ought to be. There are two clubs dedicated to the cult, whose members yearly meet to honour the Immortal Memory. The Fairfield Burns Club is the older of the two, having been established in 1886. In the closing months of 1903 a few gentlemen in the burgh formed another club, which is known as the Govan Burns Club. The first gathering took place in the Town Hall on January 25, 1904, when the Rev. John Brown, of Bellahouston —an enthusiastic Burnsite—submitted the "Immortal Memory."

The first public occasion of which we have record when the anniversary was honoured in Govan was upon the 25th day of January, 1875. The Burgh Hall was the rendezvous, and over 100 gentlemen sat down to dinner. Major Merry, of Middleton House, one of the then commissioners, occupied the chair, and the "Immortal Memory" was proposed by Mr. W. M. Wilson, the town clerk.

TOWING PATH.

About 1806 a towing path, 20 feet wide, was constructed on the south bank of the Clyde from Glasgow, through Govan, and thence to Renfrew. This, or what remains of it, now forms the valuable right-of-way alongside the river from Highland Lane to Govan Ferry, and from the ferry right down the banks to Renfrew.

STEAM CARS.

The Vale of Clyde Tramway Company received the sanction of Parliament, on 13th July, 1871, to run cars from Paisley Road Toll along Govan Road to Govan, and on 27th June, 1876, obtained power to work these cars by mechanical traction. At first, the cars were drawn by horses, and ran into St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, which was the eastern terminus. They afterwards ceased to run past the Toll, and, in 1878, steam cars were put on between the Toll and Govan. These cars continued running until 1893, when the Govan Corporation bought over the companys' lines and leased

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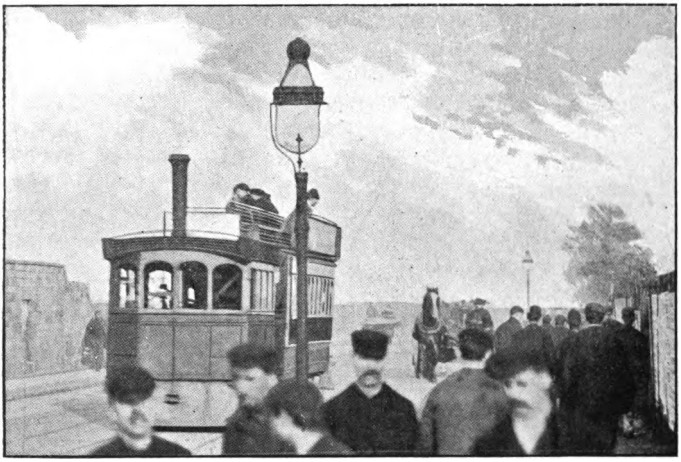

Steam Car on Old Govan Road.

Old Govan Road, showing new Stead Place.

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them to the Glasgow Tramway and Omnibus Co. Their lease was transferred, by consent, to the Glasgow Corporation in 1896. These steam cars were very fast-going machines, and in general appearance not unlike the single-decker electric of to-day. The fare was a penny on the top for the whole journey—Paisley Road Toll to Fairfield—and twopence inside. Despite the double fare, "inside" was the most popular seat, the "outsides" having the benefit of the smoke and sparks from the engine, "something in the eye" being a common result of the airing. The old Govan and Ibrox tramways, which ran from the Toll to a little past Whitefield Road, Ibrox, were constructed in 1878, and were acquired in 1893 by the Town Council of Govan. Their subsequent history was similar to the Vale of Clyde Co.

JAMIE BLUE.

Jamie Blue was a well-known vendor of "chap" literature during the early years of last century in Glasgow, Govan, and Paisley. He was born in Pollokshaws, and spent a good part of his life as a street-singer in these towns. The songs of Burns and Tannahill were his favourite ballads. During the heat of election struggles Jamie's poetical abilities were requisitioned, and he produced pithy effusions suitable to the occasion, the title of "The 'Shaws Poet" being eventually bestowed upon our hero. The celebrated Hawkie and he were rivals in the profession, and sometimes crossed each other. Both were remarkably "glib o' the moo," and these encounters between the two wits attained to heights of eloquence untrod (fortunately) even by Shakespeare. Jamie ended his eventful career in the old Govan Poorhouse.

"IMPHM."

James Nicholson, one of the most tender and humorous of the Glasgow poets, and author of the inimitable song "Imphm," was for many years foreman tailor in the old Govan Workhouse. The site of this old poorhouse is now occupied by Eglinton Street Station. He was also a considerable time at Merryflats.

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THE PROVOST'S INSIGNIA.

The first public appearance of a Provost of Govan in the full insignia of his office was on the occasion of the launch of H.M.S. "Marathon," from the yard of the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company, 23rd August, 1888, when Provost Ferguson was on the launching platform habited in the robes of office and gold chain. The gold chain had been previously worn, but the robes had never been displayed.

THE IBROX DISASTER.

Still fresh in the memory of all is the terrible calamity which took place during the progress of the International match between England and Scotland on the 5th April, 1902. The game was being played on the well-known football ground of the Rangers at Ibrox, and when about half-way through a portion of the stand which surrounds the park gave way without the slightest warning. Hundreds were precipitated to the ground, and the scene which followed was appalling. The stand was constructed of heavy beams of wood, crossing and recrossing each other. Many of those who fell received terrible injuries by being crushed upon the cross beams.

Strange as it may appear, so immense is the diameter of this football ground, and so densely packed with people was it, that only those in the immediate vicinity were aware of the calamity. Indeed, many people left after the game was finished and received the first intimation of the disaster from their evening papers. As the result of the disaster 24 people were killed and over 600 injured.

THE PARTICK RIOTS.

A disturbance, which assumed the dimensions of a riot, occurred at Partick on the 5th of August, 1875. A procession in honour of the O'Connell celebration passing through the burgh was attacked, and a fierce fight ensued. The disturbance spread to such an alarming extent that the Riot Act had to be read, and

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THE GOVAN CHRONICLE.

Vol. I., No. 1.— [Registered for Transmission Abroad.] SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1875. ONE PENNY.

Houses, &c., To Let.

GOVAN.—To LET very superior HOUSE of Two compartments, with Washing Houses and Coal Cellars, &c., in QUEEN STREET. Rent from £8. Apply to HENRY MUGENS, 238 Govan Road.

GOVAN.—To LET, at WEST END, SINGLE SHOPS, suitable for Tobacconist and Shoemaker.—Apply to HENRY MUGENS, 238 Govan Road.

GOUROCK.—To LET, comfortably furnished, from 1st June, THREE ROOMS and KITCHEN, with Bath, West from Kempock Point. Rent Moderate.—Apply to ROBERT FORSYTH, 14 Sandyknowe Street, Glasgow; or Mrs. BALLANTYNE, Draper, Kempock on or Clydeside Office.

GOUROCK. To LET, ROOM and KITCHEN, comfortably furnished, for June, July, August, September, and October. Rent Moderate. Apply at CLYDESIDE OFFICE.

Public Notices, &c.

NOTICE.—THE SCOTTISH HIGHLAND, HIGHLAND CLANS, AND HIGHLAND REGIMENTS, now being completed. Copies may be had of PULLARTON & Co.'s, 32 Oswald Street.

THE MONEYSTOCK CHOICE.

An Evening Address on the above Subject, will be Delivered by Mr. ALLAN BELL, Missionary, in the Lodge Hall, Govan, on Sabbath evening next, 23rd inst. Service to commence at Seven o'clock. All are Invited.

Business Cards.

JOHN M'FARLANE,
Family Grocer, Wine, & Spirit Merchant,
DEAN PARK TERRACE,
135, GOVAN ROAD,
(Corner of Copeland Road.)

General Grocer, Wine & Spirit Merchant,
151 & 225 GOVAN ROAD, GOVAN.

Family Grocer and Wine Merchant.
IBROX PLACE, PAISLEY ROAD.

GALASHIELS ALL-WOOL TWEED SUITS,

IN a large Variety of Patterns, made up to Order in the best Styles.

Fit and Workmanship guaranteed.

A TRIAL SOLICITED.

CASH PRICES, - 32s., 40s., and 45s.

SMITH'S CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT,
CITY BANK BUILDINGS,
GOVAN.

GREAT REDUCTIONS IN PRICE OF BEDDING.

WOOL BEDS, Scotch prices, 9s6d, 11s6d, 13s, Reduced to 7s6d, 9s6d, and 11s.

WOOL MATTRESSES, former prices, 15s6d, 17s6d, 19s6d, and 21s. Reduced to 12s, 13s6d, 15s6d, and 18s6d.

WOOL PILLOWS, formerprices, 1s, 1s6d, 2s, 2s6d. Reduced to 8d, 10d, 1s, 1s6d.

IRON BEDSTEADS, full size, Reduced to 14s6d.

ROBERT NISBET,
PORTLAND BUILDINGS, 170 GOVAN ROAD.

IF YOU WANT A GOOD DINNER
GO TO
STRACHAN'S RESTAURANT,
GOVAN ROAD, *West of the Cross.*

Tripe Suppers every Evening.

TRY
ROBERTSON'S HALF-GUINEA HAT.
"A Crowning Excellence."

JOHN ROBERTSON,
HATTER,
180 GOVAN ROAD.

I PROMISE to give on demand really the Best VALUE in MOLESKIN TROUSERS, Grey, White, or Black, at 7s6d. the Pair.
DUCK, SERGE, and DRUGGET JACKETS, Extra Quality, and equally Cheap.

THOMAS SMITH,
GENERAL OUTFITTER, &c., GOVAN.
INSPECTION INVITED.

Business Announcements.

WILLIAM BARR,
GREAT WESTERN BUILDINGS,
GOVAN.

FASHIONABLE MANTLES AND CAPES.
NEW DRESS MATERIALS.
MILLINERY DEPARTMENT COMPLETE.
GREAT ASSORTMENT.

WILLIAM BARR,
GREAT WESTERN BUILDINGS,
GOVAN.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

ALL the advantages of a practical experience, personal attention, ability to buy in the best markets, and the most advantageous terms, to be gained by visiting

OGILVIE'S
READY-MONEY TEA, COFFEE, & GENERAL GROCERY ESTABLISHMENT,
269 GOVAN ROAD,
GREAT WESTERN BUILDINGS, GOVAN,
SUCCESSOR TO
MR. JAMES THOMPSON, FAMILY GROCER AND WINE MERCHANT.

IMPORTANT SALE
OF THE
BANKRUPT CLOTHING AND OUTFITTING STOCKS
OF
W. R. SIMPSON AND JAMES LAW,
CONSISTING OF
READY-MADE CLOTHES, TWEEDS, HOSIERY, SHIRTS, HATS AND CAPS, UMBRELLAS, SCARFS, TIES, &c., &c.

THE STOCKS AMOUNT TO UPWARDS OF £900, AND HAVE BEEN BOUGHT FROM THE TRUSTEE AT A LARGE REDUCTION FROM THE ORIGINAL COST.

THE FOLLOWING ARE A FEW OF THE LEADING PRICES:—

Tweed Trousers from 6s.6d. Tweed Vests from 3s.6d. Great Coats from 10s.6d. Tweed Cloth from 1s.11d. per yard. Oil-cloth Trousers from 4s.9d. a pair. Oil-cloth Coats from 3s.9d. Waterproof Coats from 4s.6d. Wool tops from 1s.6d. a pair. Ladies' Wool Scarpers from 2s.6d. Lambs' Wool Pants from 2s. a pair. Flannel Scarpers from 2s.6d. Cotton Shirts from 1s.9d. Wool Shirts from 2s.9d. White Dress Shirts from 2s.6d. Gents' new Umbrellas from 4s.6d.

JAMES M. WELSH & CO.,
223 PAISLEY ROAD.

NEW IRONMONGERY ESTABLISHMENT,
No. 13 PLANTATION STREET, GOVAN ROAD.

BOOT AND SHOE WAREHOUSE,
3 Clyde Grove Terrace, Govan Road (opposite Stobcross Ferry).

ALEXANDER YELLOWLEES,

BEGS to intimate that he has opened those Large and Commodious Premises, with a well-selected stock of GRATES, FENDERS, CUTLERY, IRON MONGERY, TUBS, KITS, PAILS, TIN GOODS, ITALIAN CARPET BROOMS, BRUSHES, & BRUSHES of every sort and size, to keep the machinery of a house going, and trusts to receive a share of public patronage and support.

A.Y. being the largest Importer in Great Britain of American Wood Skin Pegs, Wood and Zinc Wash Boards, American Peg And Hatts, Wood Pails and Tubs, and Hollow Carpet Brooms, he feels confident that he is able to sell as moderate as any house in the trade.

Agent for all the Shipping Companies in Liverpool and Glasgow. Francis Coutts & Co's Celebrated Acetic Acid, and S. Lowis & Co.'s Atmospheric Heating and Cooking Gas Stoves, and Tattersall's Lift-Preserving Mattress.

OBSERVE THE ADDRESS—
13 PLANTATION STREET, GOVAN ROAD.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL,
General Grocer and Flesher,
230 GOVAN ROAD, GOVAN.

Election Notices.

BURGH OF GOVAN.

ANNUAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION, 1875.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as the Qualified Municipal Electors of the BURGH of GOVAN:—

I. That in accordance with the provisions of "The General Police and Improvement (Scotland) Act, 1862," of "The Ballot Act, 1872," and of other relative Public and General Statutes, the ANNUAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION will be held upon

WEDNESDAY, 2ND JUNE, 1875,

of One Police Commissioner for the First Ward, in room of Peter Hutcheson, Esquire.
One Police Commissioner for the Second Ward, in room of Hugh Alexander Campbell.
Two Police Commissioners for the Third Ward, in room of Archibald M'Lean, Esquire, and James M'Kirie, Esquire.
One Police Commissioner for the Fourth Ward, in room of Provost James Wilson.

II. That the retiring Police Commissioners above named are capable of re-election.

III. That each Nomination or Candidature for Election must be subscribed by a separate Nomination Paper, which may be in the form subjoined.

IV. That such Nomination Papers must be submitted to or lodged with the Town Clerk of Govan, W. M. Wilson, Esquire, within the Burgh Chambers, Govan, on or before Five o'clock P.M. of THURSDAY, the 27th day of May, 1875.

V. If the Nominees for the respective Wards do not exceed the respective numbers, the Election will be determined by Nomination, and those Nominees will thereafter be declared duly elected.

VI. In the event of a competition of Nominees for all or any of the Wards, the Election will then be conducted, and will be determined by a Poll, which will be taken by Ballot from Eight o'clock A.M. to Eight o'clock P.M. on Wednesday, 3rd June, 1875, within Polling Stations which will be afterwards announced.

JAMES WILSON, Provost and Returning Officer.
JOHN M'FARLANE, Magistrate.
W. M. WILSON, Town Clerk.
Burgh Chambers,
Govan, 14th May, 1875.

FORM OF NOMINATION PAPER.

WE, A. *here insert Name and place of abode as on the Municipal Register of the Burgh*, and B. *here insert Name and place of abode as on the Municipal Register of the Burgh*, hereby propose C. *here insert Name and place of abode as on the Municipal Register of the Burgh*, as a fit and proper person to be elected as a Police Commissioner for the *here insert Ward*, at the next ensuing Municipal Election in the Burgh of Govan.

Given under our hands this *here insert day of* 1875.

A.
B.

To W. M. WILSON, Esq., Town Clerk, Burgh Chambers, Govan.

NOTE.—The Proposer and Seconder of a Candidate for Election to a Police Commissionership must be Electors of that Ward. No Elector in the Burgh, however, may be Nominated.

Business Cards.

JOHN CLARK has just received another large shipment of the Finest Coppell Coals. Four tons of S.S. Steel of Stonepark, which he is selling at a very Moderate Price.

VICTORIA PLACE, 225 GOVAN ROAD.

GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHING.

N. CARSWELL,
TRAMWAY TERMINUS,
GOVAN.

SUITS, Made to Measure, - 35s., 40s., 45s.
TROUSERS, Made to Measure, 15s6, 17s6, 18s6.

BEST ALL-WOOL SCOTCH TWEED SUITS,
FROM 25s. to 30s.
FIT GUARANTEED.
JOHN QUIN'S
CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT,
253 GOVAN ROAD.

R. & J. DICKS
(LIMITED)
GUTTA PERCHA
BOOTS AND SHOES.
BRANCH—228 GOVAN ROAD.
BEFORE PURCHASE AND MEDAL EXHIBITION.

By permission of Andrew Cossar, Esq.. "Govan Press."

First Newspaper published in Govan.

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the assistance of a body of Glasgow policemen telegraphed for. No one was actually killed, but many were very seriously injured. By the following Monday, however, peace was restored, but the Partick Police Court was kept busy for some days afterwards. This is the only occasion upon which the Riot Act has been read in the parish of Govan.

SOME LOCAL INSTITUTIONS.

Govan Parish Young Men's Literary Association, instituted 1876; Govan Highland Association, instituted 3rd October, 1890; Elder Model Yacht Club, instituted 1885; Fairfield Swimming Club, instituted 1889; the Rangers Football Club, instituted 1872; Govan Police Pipe Band (first police band to be formed in Scotland), instituted August, 1886; Govan Rob Roy Four-in-hand Club, instituted 1893; Govandale Masonic Lodge, consecrated November, 1864; the Lyceum Theatre, opened 14th November, 1899.

GOVAN POLICE FORCE, 1864.

The following constituted the first police force in the burgh of Govan:—

Superintendent	David Young.
Inspector	James M'Donald.
Constable, 1st Class	Alexander Dalglish.
,, ,,	Alexander Fraser.
,, ,,	Arthur Gemmel.
,, 3rd Class	Gregor M'Leod.
,, ,,	John Campbell.
,, ,,	John Currie.
,, ,,	Alex. Grant.
,, ,,	Bartholomew M'Donagh.
,, ,,	Joshua Taggart.
,, ,,	John Ferguson.

Prior to the formation of Govan as a burgh, the lives and property of the old village community were looked after by a single constable.

FOUNDATION OF U.P. CHURCH.

In the year 1837 a preaching station in connection with the United Secession Church was formed in the

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village of Govan, to the charge of which the Rev. Mr. Hay was appointed by the Presbytery of Glasgow. That gentleman was shortly called to Inveraray, and the Rev. Mr. Lowe succeeded him in charge of the station. The number of members at that time was 30, the population of Govan amounting to only 1000. For several years the Parish Church had been the only place of worship in the village. In 1843 Mr. Hay, who had left Inveraray, was, at the request of the members, again appointed to the station.

From the increase which had taken place in the number of inhabitants, consequent upon the establishment in the vicinity of large shipbuilding works, the schoolroom (the Trades' School which stood on the north side of the old Main Street), in which religious services had hitherto been conducted, proved totally insufficient to meet the requirements—the membership now (1846) being 80, exclusive of adherents. Accordingly a site* was obtained on the lands of Burndyke, and the church thereon erected facing the road leading from Glasgow to Renfrew, sittings being provided for 350.

This church was opened in March, 1847, and the Rev. Mr. Hay was formally inducted in the June following.

Success seems to have attended the congregation, as the membership, which in 1848 was 80, had increased in 1859 to 217, and in 1869 to 415; while the ordinary income, which in 1848 was £103, reached in 1866 the handsome sum of £341. The minister shared in the general prosperity, the stipend in 1869 being £300—a vast stride from 1848, when his pecuniary reward stood at £85. The church on the lands of Burndyke was erected at a cost of £1000.

The Rev. Mr. Hay, after a lingering illness, died in 1868, universally regretted. After a lapse of a few months, the Rev. Dr. J. B. Johnston, of Duke Street U.P. Church, Glasgow, was translated to Govan U.P. Church. His untiring assiduity in his ministerial duties soon rendered another and a larger place of worship necessary; and in the spring of 1869 the congregation agreed to the erection of the church which stands at the end of Copland Road, facing the

* See map of Govan at page 110.

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graving docks. The building, which cost about £5000, is a remarkably handsome and commodious one, and is in the Grecian style of architecture.

THE FREE CHURCH.

In the great Disruption movement of 1843 Govan took an active part. Doubtless the proximity of the village to what we might term the hub of the crisis, Glasgow, accounted for this. Dr. Chalmers, who laboured then in the city, was stirring thousands by the bold and active character which ultimately gave him the foremost rank among the leaders of the movement. It were little wonder, then, that the neighbouring districts should be powerfully affected, and the old-world village of Govan shared to the full in the bitter controversies of that troubled time. The party spirit was rampant in our village. As a result we find that historic year marked by the severance from the Parish Church of a considerable body of communicants.

The leaders of the little band who thus went forth into unknown pastures were Mr. James Kerr, one of the five Parish Church elders, and Mr. John King, the parish schoolmaster of that day. Their courage in taking such a step was undoubted. They had neither minister nor church. During the first year, however, the members of this nucleus of what became the Govan Free attended the ministry of Mr. M'Farlane at Renfrew, or Mr. Gibson at Kingston, while many open-air meetings were also organised. There was in these open-air preachings a flavour of the Covenanting times, and numbers freely joined the movement.

They were progressing. The want of a church of their own was keenly felt, however, and not a stone was left unturned by the members to have that want satisfied. In this they ultimately succeeded, as the following historic minute from the Church Session Records tells us:—

> "Having resolved to use their utmost efforts to build a Church, "and obtain the privilege of a settle Pastor over them, and having "been ultimately joined by a considerable number of persons like-"minded with themselves, they persevered in their application to the "Presbytery, and to the General Assembly of the Free Church, and "in their endeavour to raise the necessary funds to erect a place of

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"worship, until the Assembly having sanctioned the formation of a "congregation at Govan, and the Church having in due time been "completed and opened, and the congregation (now numbering "about one hundred and fifty communicants) having given a "unanimous call to the Reverend Peter Petrie, then Minister of the "Free Church at Kirkwall, to become their Pastor, and he having "accepted of the same, Mr. Petrie was admitted and inducted to "the Church of Govan by the Free Presbytery of Glasgow on "Friday, *the 21st day of June 1844.*"

This old church, the original Free Church of Govan, which was opened on June 21, 1844, stood on the ground now taken up by No. 2 and No. 3 Graving Docks, on a line with the present Copland Road. (See map of village in 1850, page 110.) The situation was a beautiful one in those days. A handsome avenue, bordered with fine elm trees, swept from the old Govan Road to the church building. The back windows overlooked the then rustic Three Ell Road. From the highway one could see the old grey building, with its little Dutch-looking steeple, comfortably ensconced in its bower of trees and creepers, the whole presenting a fine picture of rustic quietude and beauty.

As originally erected, the church was a two-storey building, the upper part being the church proper, the lower flat being divided into schoolroom and manse. Picturesque though its exterior was, the interior is described as bare and comfortless, while the roof gave much trouble for years. The manse is said to have resembled a "kind of cellar." There was sitting accommodation for about 500 worshippers, and the whole building cost about £700, of which £225 was contributed by the Assembly.

In the autumn of 1846 the need of additional accommodation was felt, and the whole building was converted into a church. A new schoolroom was built at the north side, and the minister took up his residence at old Govandale House (still standing behind the Lyceum Theatre).

The congregation was a virile one. They lost no time in putting their house in order. The first election of deacons took place on 1st September, 1844, Messrs. Chalmers, M'Donald, Hamilton, Rallie, and Sinclair being inducted to office. The various church agencies were quickly launched, and the Free Church assumed

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a leading place in the social and religious life of the district.

The first regular kirk session was formed in May, 1848, consisting of Messrs. Black, Cleland, M'Gee, King, and Garrioch. The village was then divided into five elders' districts, the boundaries of which it would be rather difficult to trace in the burgh of to-day. As a memory of old Govan they are worthy of being recorded :—

No. 1—Glasgow to Heathery Hall, including Paisley Road—Mr. King.
No. 2—Heathery Hall to Miss Edmond's Cottage—Mr. Black.
No. 3—Miss Edmond's Cottage to Middleton Road—Mr. Garrioch.
No. 4—Middleton Road to east side of Parish School Square inclusive—Mr Clelland.
No. 5—Parish School Square and Water Row, westward—Mr. M'Gee.

The congregation continued to worship in this church until 1873, in which year the handsome Gothic structure in Summertown Road was opened.

After being bereft of its old worshippers, the old building beside the Three Ell Road experienced many vicissitudes of fortune. It was first of all converted into a theatre ; then became a third-rate music-hall ; it acted as a lodging-house for the Russian sailors who were sent to man the "Peter the Great" ; and latterly it became the home of the Salvation Army, whose noble Christian labours helped to recall again the early days of its existence as a temple of the Almighty.

OTHER DENOMINATIONS.

Roman Catholic Church.—For the benefit of the Irish population resident in the district, service in connection with the above church was instituted prior to the formation of Govan as a burgh. A small room then sufficed for worship. In 1864 a chapel was built and regular weekly Sunday morning services inaugurated. With the rapid increase of population the number of adherents also increased, and, in 1878, St. Anthony's, the present handsome Byzantine edifice, was erected. It has 1500 sittings. The rectory was built in 1892.

Baptist Church.—This religious community erected a commodious place of worship in Copland Road in

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1876. The design, of graceful proportions, is in the early English style of architecture. It has 650 sittings. Adjoining the church is a hall, accommodating 500 persons.

Govan E.U. Church, White Street, was formally admitted into the Evangelical Union in 1869. The church was erected in 1882.

There are also flourishing congregations in connection with the Govan Congregational Church, Windsor Street, built 1874; the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Fleming Street, erected 1884; and St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Whitefield Road. Excellent and far-reaching Christian work is also accomplished by the Salvation Army in our burgh.

GOVAN BOWLING CLUB.

Govan Bowling Green Club was originally instituted at a meeting of gentlemen held in the Parish School-room on the evening of 10th March, 1852. The club thus instituted was the fifth to be formed in the Glasgow district, the Partick Club, formed in 1848, being the fourth.

A board of management was elected, consisting of—Mr. David Dreghorn, president; Mr. Morrison, treasurer; Mr. Morris Pollock, yr., secretary. A green committee was appointed for the purpose of making a green; and on the 19th March, 1852, the president, secretary, and treasurer were deputed to enter into and execute a lease of a portion of the ground, situated between North and South Avenues, with Mr. M'Vicar, of Vicarfield, from Whitsunday, 1852, at a yearly rent of £6 10s.

Upon the 7th May, 1852, the constitution and rules of the green were adopted. In 1867 a further lease was entered into with Mr. M'Vicar, the green acquiring the whole of the feu, and a feudal title was subsequently conferred by Mr. M'Vicar at a nominal price.

The green was extended in 1869 so as to occupy the whole of the feu. The club has at all times been exceedingly well managed, and its directors' board has always contained a fair representation of the burgh's most able public men.

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BELLAHOUSTON BOWLING CLUB.

Bellahouston Bowling Club was formed in the year 1858. The idea to form a club was mooted by a few gentlemen resident in the Bellahouston district in the early part of the year mentioned. A meeting was held in December, 1858, in Buchanan's Coffee Room, Clyde Place, when the suggestion took definite shape. The next step was to secure ground. Mr. Moses Steven, the then proprietor of Bellahouston estate, was approached, and granted a fine bit of turf, an acre in extent, lying between Cecil and Percy Streets. A green was formed and bowling-house erected. Some years later another green was added, and a curling pond formed alongside.

These several places of recreation continued in use till the end of 1892, when, through various reasons, the club was compelled to seek new quarters. A delightfully-situated piece of land, adjacent to Beech Avenue, of two acres in extent, was feued. The construction of the green and bowling-house was placed in the hands of Mr. R. Wightman, architect, and the work was commenced in autumn, 1892.

The ceremony of laying the last turf was performed on Christmas Eve, 1892, by Dr. Taylor, president of the club, and the green was formally opened by Provost Kirkwood on the 13th of May, 1893.

BELLAHOUSTON LAWN TENNIS CLUB.

This club dates back to the spring of 1883. The present handsomely laid-out grounds, containing five red ash courts, were opened in 1887. The grounds are situated to the west of and adjoin the Bellahouston bowling greens.

THE PLACE-NAME GOVAN.

The place-name Govan appears under many orthographic variations, the oldest forms being Guuen and Guuan. In subsequent registers and documents it occurs in the following forms:—Gwuan, Gwfane, Mekill Gwan, Mykil Gwffane, Gwffan, Gwane, Gwuane,

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Gouffane, Gowane, Gowain, Gowan, Gowen, Goffane, Govand, Goven, Govain, Govaine, Goifand, Goifwand, Gevan, Geven, Gewan, Gewand, Gevane, Gevand, Gevande, Gaven, Gwne. The name is Gaelic as well as British, and means a smith or the land of the smith. For its derivation we must travel back to the time when the Romans, under Agricola, in the first century, found the tribes of Strathclyde armed with swords, dirks, and spears of well-wrought workmanship. We know that Vulcan was one of the most powerful of the Grecian gods, and the ancient Celts had their Goban, or smith-god.

Joyce, in his "Irish Names of Places," says—"The land possessed by smiths, or the places where they resided, may in many cases be determined by the local names. Gobha (gow) is a smith; old Irish form, goba; old Welsh, gob, now gof; Cornish and Breton, gof." Robertson, in his "Gaelic Topography of Scotland," tells us that "the name Balnagowan and Balgowan appears in the map of five Scottish counties. It is also in the Isles of Skye and Mull, and is derived from the Gaelic "Baile-ghobhainn," which signifies "the blacksmith's town." On the Clyde we have Ardgowan, "the blacksmith's height"; in Stirlingshire, Blairgowan, "the field of the smith."

The oldest form of Govan is Guuan and Guuen. Allowing for peculiarities of spelling and transcription in the ancient documents, the word is undoubtedly the Celtic gowan or Welsh (Britons) gofan. In pronunciation the oldest forms are possibly the same, the letters u, v, and w being interchangeable in our ancient spelling. In modern Welsh dictionaries we find the word "gofan," signifying a smith.

Govan as a Gaelic root-word might require another root-word indicative of place to give it applicability, as, for instance, "Ardgowan" or "Blairgowan," referred to above. But there are many exceptions to this, and while, derivatively, Govan means "a smith," it doubtless meant to the old tribes of Strathclyde "the land of the smith."

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